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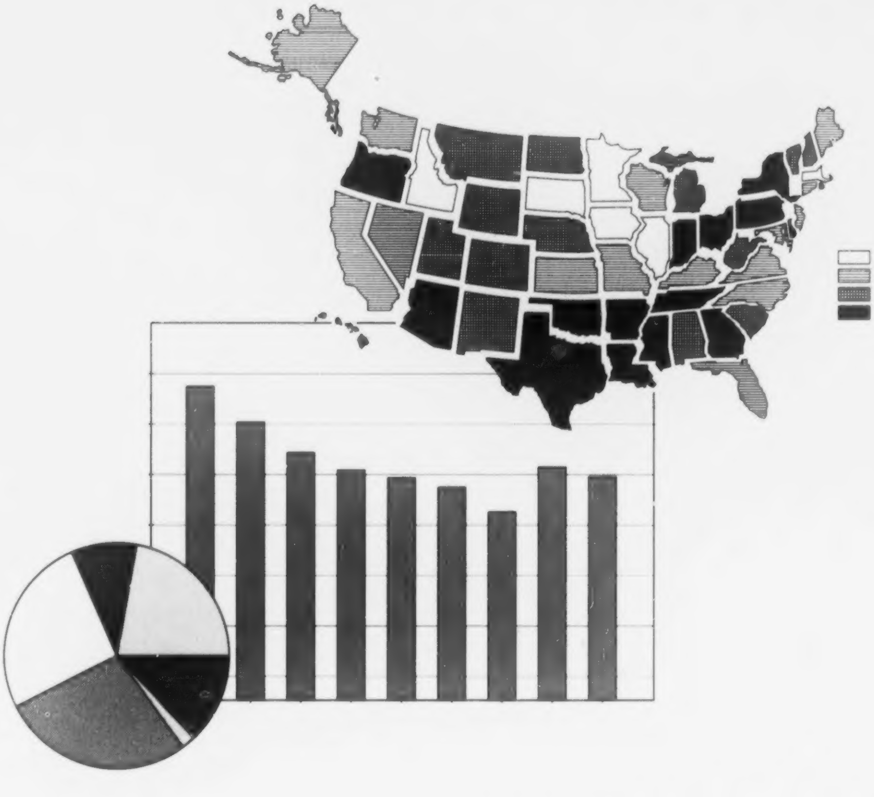
State Court Caseload Statistics:
ANNUAL REPORT 1990



A commentary on State Court Caseloads and Trends in 1990

A joint effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the State Justice Institute,
and the National Center for State Courts

State Court Caseload Statistics:
ANNUAL REPORT 1990

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The 12-member Conference of State Court Administrators Court Statistics Committee oversaw the production of the *Report*, and established the general direction for collecting and reporting state court caseload statistics. Their suggestions, corrections, and comments shaped the *Report*. A word of thanks is owed to David Lampen, who was a member of the Court Statistics Committee for five years. David's formal association with the Committee ended when he left Alaska to become the Clerk of the U.S. Claims Court.

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A special debt is owed to the advice and editorial skills of our colleague Roger Hanson. His enthusiasm for the subject matter and, in particular, his knowledge of appellate courts provided a rich source of information on court procedures and outcomes that offers a counterpoint to the focus in this report on aggregate caseload numbers.

Responsibility for the information reported here and the discussion and analysis of Parts I and II nevertheless rests fully with the Court Statistics Project staff. The more general responsibility for the development of the caseload report series and promoting improvements to court statistics is shared with National Center for State Courts' management, working under the policy direction of the COSCA Court Statistics Committee.

CONTENTS

• • • • • • • • • •

Acknowledgments vii

Overview of the Report xiii

Part I: Trial Court Caseloads in 1990 and 1984-90 Trends 1

Comparability and Reliability of Data 4
State Trial Court Volume in 1990 4
Court Structure 5
General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts: Jurisdiction and Caseload 6
  General Jurisdiction Courts 6
  Limited Jurisdiction Courts 7
Composition of Trial Court Caseloads: 1990 and 1984-90 Trends 10
  Civil Filings in 1990 and 1984-90 Trends 10
    Civil Filings per 100,00 Population 12
    Growth in Civil Filings, 1984-90 15
    Clearance Rates for Civil Cases 16
    Composition of Civil Caseloads 18
    Domestic Relations in 1990 18
  Trends in Civil Filings, 1984-90 21
    Torts 21
    Contract and Real Property Rights Filings 23
  Criminal Filings in 1990 25
    Criminal Filings per 100,000 Population 28
    Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases 30
    Composition of Criminal Caseloads 31
    Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI Cases in Limited Jurisdiction Courts 32
    Trends in Felony Filings, 1984-90 34
  Juvenile Filings in 1990 35
    Juvenile Filings per 100,000 Population 36
    Composition of Juvenile Caseloads 40
    Clearance Rates for Juvenile Petitions 41
Work Loads of the Federal and State Judiciaries 42
Summary of Trial Court Activity 43
  Volume 43
  Caseload Adjusted For Population 43
  Clearance Rates 44
  Caseload Composition 44
  Trial Court Filing Trends, 1984-90 44

Part II: Appellate Court Caseloads in 1990 and 1984-90 Trends 45

Introduction 47
Appellate Court Structure in 1990 47

Courts of Last Resort 50
Intermediate Appellate Courts 50
State Appellate Caseloads in 1990 51
Overview 51
The Number of Appeals in Each State 52
The Total Number of Appeals and State Population 52
A Comparison of State Appellate Caseload Levels After Taking Population Into Account 54
The Courts' Success in Keeping Up with Mandatory Appeals 55
The Courts' Success in Keeping Up with Discretionary Petitions 56
Discretionary Petitions Granted 57
Appellate Court Opinions in 1990 58
Appellate Court Caseload Trends 59
Trends in Mandatory Appeals 60
Trends in Discretionary Petitions 60
Summary 63

Part III: 1990 State Court Caseload Tables 67

TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1990. Mandatory jurisdiction cases and discretionary jurisdiction petitions in courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts 68
TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. Total mandatory cases, total discretionary petitions, and total discretionary petitions granted that are filed and disposed. The number of and filed per judge figures for both the sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions, and the sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted. Court type and the point at which cases are counted 70
TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. Court type. Filed and disposed cases. Disposed as a percent of filed. Number of judges. Filed per judge. Filed per 100,000 population 84
TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. Court type. Filed and disposed cases. Disposed as a percent of filed. Number of judges. Filed per judge. Filed per 100,000 population 90
TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. Court type. Filed, filed granted, granted disposed cases. Granted as a percent of filed. Disposed as a percent of granted. Number of judges. Filed granted per judge 96
TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990. Opinion unit of count. Content of opinion count. Signed opinions. Number of justices/judges. Number of lawyer support personnel 102
TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseload for State Trial Courts, 1990 107
TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. Jurisdiction, parking, criminal unit of count, and support/custody codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population 109
TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. Jurisdiction, support/custody codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population 119

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. Jurisdiction, criminal unit of count, and point of filing codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 adult population . . . 128
TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. Jurisdiction, parking codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population . . . 137
TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990. Jurisdiction, point of filing codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 juvenile population . . . 145
TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-90. Case filings and dispositions, 1984-90 . . . 150
TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-90. Case filings and dispositions, 1984-90 . . . 160
TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-90. Case filings, 1984-90 . . . 168
TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-90. Case filings, 1984-90 . . . 175

Part IV: 1990 State Court Structure Charts . . . 181

An Explanatory Note . . . 183
State Court Structure Prototype 1990 . . . 185
State Court Structure Charts: Alabama Through Wyoming . . . 186

Part V: Jurisdiction and State Court Reporting Practices . . . 239

Figure A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1990 . . . 243
Figure B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990 . . . 245
Figure C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990 . . . 252
Figure D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990 . . . 257
Figure E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990 . . . 263
Figure F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990 . . . 268
Figure G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1990 . . . 274
Figure H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990 . . . 277

Appendices . . . 283

Appendix A: Methodology . . . 285
  Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization . . . 285
  Sources of Data . . . 285
  Data Collection Procedures . . . 285
  Variables . . . 287
  Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload Data . . . 287
  Footnotes . . . 288
  Variations in Reporting Periods . . . 288
  Final Note . . . 288
Appendix B: Sources of 1990 State Court Caseload Statistics . . . 289
Appendix C: Prototype Spreadsheets . . . 297
  Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Profile . . . 298
  Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Profile . . . 303
Appendix D: State Populations . . . 311
  Resident Population, 1990 . . . 313
  Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1984-90 . . . 315

OVERVIEW

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The volume of cases being handled in the state courts reached a record high in 1990: more than 100 million cases were filed. Rising trends characterized all major types of cases, with many states reporting dramatic increases in caseloads at both the trial and appellate court levels. A rise in caseload volume has important consequences for the operations, functions, and effectiveness of the state court system. In response to concerns over the number of cases filed and the number of cases disposed of each year, this *Report* is offered as a guide to the business of the state courts. It is intended to document and to examine the volume of cases being brought to the state courts. Three principal facets of caseload are considered:

- The *volume* of cases. How many cases are filed annually in the state courts? After adjusting for population, are state caseload levels similar or different across the country? As the number of new case filings continues to rise, are trial and appellate courts able to keep up with the work load?

- The *composition* of caseloads. What percent of civil filings are torts and what percent are contract cases? What proportion involve domestic relations? What percent of criminal caseloads are felonies? Does the relative quantity of different types of cases tend to be similar or different across the country?

- The *trends* in litigation. Is there evidence of a "litigation explosion" in tort filings? Are torts growing at a faster or slower rate than contract or real property rights cases? Have all states experienced substantial growth in felony filings? Is the growth in appeals threatening to overwhelm the state appellate courts?

These questions and others are addressed in this *Report* through a combination of statistics, analysis, and discussion about the state courts.

HOW ARE THE DATA COLLECTED? Information for the national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically official state court annual reports, which assume a variety of forms and vary widely in detail. Data from published sources are often supplemented by unpublished data received in a wide range of forms, including internal management memoranda and computer-generated output.

Extensive telephone contacts and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected about the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. A complete review of the data collection procedures and the source of each state's 1990 caseload statistics are provided in Appendices A and B.

Because there are 50 states and thus 50 different state court systems, the biggest challenge is to present the data in such a way that valid state-to-state comparisons can be made. Frequent mention is made in this *Report* to a model approach for collecting and using caseload information. The Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts have jointly developed that approach over the past 14 years. The key to the approach is comparison: comparison among states and comparison over time. The COSCA/NCSC approach makes that task possible, although at times it highlights some aspects that remain problematic when building a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of the state appellate and trial courts nationally.

The organization of the *Report* emphasizes making meaningful comparisons. The first two parts of the *Report* offer a description of current caseload volume and an analysis of key caseload trends in (a) the state trial courts and (b) the state appellate courts. To facilitate comparisons among the states, other parts of the *Report* are detailed tables of caseload statistics, descriptions of how states organize and allocate jurisdiction to their courts, and basic information on how courts compile and report court statistics.

WHAT FINDINGS EMERGE? Part I examines state trial court caseloads in 1990 and how the 1990 experience fits with recent trends. For the first time, the total reported state trial court caseload includes data from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. What stands out is that trial court caseload volume is up substantially in many states.

- More than 100 million new cases were filed in state courts during 1990 (100,792,000). Mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions to state appellate courts account for 238,000 cases. The remainder are trial court filings: 18.4 million civil cases, 13.0 million criminal cases, 1.5 million juvenile cases, and 67.5 million traffic or other ordinance violation cases.

- Civil trial court filings, which encompass torts, contracts, domestic relations, estate, and small claims cases, grew by over 5 percent from the 1989 total. Criminal trial court filings, which include felony and misdemeanor cases, increased by 4 percent over the previous year. Rising filing levels also characterized state appellate courts, where filings of mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions both grew by more than 3 percent.

With more than 100 million new cases, state courts resolve the overwhelming majority of legal disputes. Compared to the federal court system, the number of cases handled and the number of litigants, lawyers, and judges involved in the state courts is far greater.

- In 1990 there were over 31 million civil and criminal cases filed in the nation's state trial courts, compared to fewer than 280,000 such filings in the U.S. district courts, the main federal trial courts. Consequently, over 100 times as many civil and criminal cases commenced in the state courts as in the federal courts.

There is a great deal of variation in the number of cases each state contributes to the national total. At the same time, the bulk of the nation's caseload is concentrated in a relatively small number of states.

- Ten or fewer states account for a majority of civil, criminal, and juvenile filings, although the states with the largest civil filings are not necessarily the same as the states with the largest criminal or juvenile filings. However, the states that dominate each of the major types of cases have one thing in common: they tend to be the most populous states.

Because much of this variation is due to differences in the number of people being served by the courts in each state, caseload counts must be adjusted to accommodate differences in state populations. On the one hand, the reduced variation in population-adjusted filing rates clearly shows that caseload levels in the state trial courts are correlated highly with population. On the other hand, the fact that there is not a perfect correspondence between caseload volume and population size suggests that other social, economic, and legal forces affect filing rates in the states.

Filings for all categories of trial court cases are up and rising. This trend raises the immediate issue of whether courts are disposing of these cases. The number of case dispositions as a percent of case filings in a given time period offers a clearance rate, a summary measure of whether a court or a state court system is keeping up with its incoming caseload.

- The number of new cases filed in 1990 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the courts. The problem is more prevalent for civil and criminal cases than for juvenile cases, and more prevalent for limited than for general jurisdiction courts.

To address the question of whether clearance rates in 1990 reflect short-term or long-term problems of the state courts, a three-year clearance rate has been constructed that measures the percent of filings that were disposed of between 1988 and 1990. Examining the three-year clearance rate provides the opportunity to see if courts are keeping up with new cases despite a possible shortfall in a given year. The news is encouraging.

- The 1990 clearance rate for criminal cases in general jurisdiction courts exceeds the three-year rate in two-thirds of the states. This implies that clearance rates in 1990 tended to be above the average clearance rates for 1988 to 1990. Further, the three-year clearance rate for civil cases was above 98 percent in nearly one-half of the state general jurisdiction court systems.

Because courts must give priority to criminal caseloads, maintaining high criminal clearance rates is necessary to ensuring the timely disposition of all other case types.

Beyond offering a comprehensive summary of state trial court activity related to major types of cases (i.e., civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic cases), the *Report* also examines the composition of trial court caseloads. The advent of automated information systems means that states increasingly collect more detailed information, distinguishing, for example, tort cases from other civil filings and breaking down criminal caseloads into felony, misdemeanor, and DWI/DUI cases. The main finding to emerge is consistency: the underlying composition of civil, criminal, and juvenile caseloads is strikingly similar across different states. The relative size or ranking of different areas of law (e.g., domestic relations, tort, contract) within a given type of case (e.g., civil) is quite similar across most courts. Thus, for example, the largest category of civil caseload in most general jurisdiction state courts is domestic relations followed by general civil (i.e., tort, contract, and real property rights). The specific percentage of domestic relations may vary from court to court, but it is consistently the largest category. Hence, the business of the state courts is about the same, despite differences in factors such as jurisdiction or context (e.g., crime rates, law enforcement practices, and social conditions).

An examination of caseload trends offers a perspective by fitting the 1990 experience into recent history. In short, caseload growth in 1990 is an extension of a cycle of growth.

- Since 1984, civil caseloads have risen by 30 percent, criminal caseloads by 33 percent, juvenile caseloads by 28 percent, and traffic caseloads by 12 percent. In contrast, national population has increased by 5 percent over the same seven-year period.

Trend analysis provides further information about whether caseload growth or decline is consistent among states and across types of cases. This *Report* examines trends in important civil case categories—tort, contract, real property rights—as well as in criminal felony cases.

Tort cases, an ongoing focus of public policy concern, are not consistently increasing across the country. An upward trend may be present in some states, but the distinguishing feature of tort cases in recent years is their susceptibility to short-term adjustments in response to tort reform legislation (e.g., Alaska and Arizona). It is too early to say if those adjustments will meet the objectives of that legislation.

The trend analysis also suggests that tort filings are changing over time in a manner that differs from other civil case categories.

- There are sufficient differences between tort, contract, and real property rights case-filing patterns to suggest that the factors promoting increased or decreased levels of tort litigation in states are not having a similar effect on contract and real property rights filings.

- The most dramatic increases in the civil caseload tend to be for real property rights and contract cases, not torts.

The trend in felony case filings is clear: increasing, and increasing substantially, in the general jurisdiction trial courts of most states.

- Total felony filings have increased by an average of more than 50 percent since 1984 in the 35 courts examined.

Because the number of cases being filed in some states has more than doubled over a seven-year period, the pressures on the criminal courts are substantial indeed. Moreover, felony cases are usually heard at the general jurisdiction court level and are the type of criminal case with the most substantial implications for court staffing and resources.

Part II describes levels and trends in the state appellate court caseloads. In addition, distinctions in appellate court structure and the ways new cases reach appellate courts are explained.

- The volume of appeals reached a new high in 1990. State appellate courts reported 238,007 mandatory and discretionary filings in 1990 which is a 3.7 percent increase over 1989.

The connection between caseload composition and appellate court structure is important for considering the work, operations, and problems of the appellate courts nationwide.

Appeals are heard in two types of courts: intermediate appellate courts (IACs) and courts of last resort (COLRs). All states have established a COLR, often called the supreme court. The COLR has final jurisdiction over all appeals within the state. Thirty-eight states have responded to caseload growth by creating one or more intermediate appellate courts to hear appeals from trial courts or administrative agencies, as specified by law or at the direction or assignment of the COLR. Twenty-five of these states have established their IACs since 1958. Yet, despite the common contexts in which they were created, important differences exist in the allocation of jurisdiction between COLRs and IACs.

The consequences of these differences are highlighted when appellate structure is matched with jurisdiction. The matching process produces four categories of appellate cases: (1) IAC mandatory appeals, (2) IAC discretionary appeals, (3) COLR mandatory appeals, and (4) COLR discretionary appeals.

- The IACs are the workhorses of the appellate system. In 1990 mandatory appeals in the IACs accounted for 62 percent of total appellate filings. This category also experienced the largest growth rate between 1989 and 1990 (4.7 percent).

- The COLRs experienced a 4 percent increase between 1989 and 1990 in the number of discretionary petitions, which constitutes the bulk of their work.

These figures reveal the varying caseload pressures confronting courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts. COLRs face increases in discretionary petitions, which count for the largest share of their caseloads. In contrast, IACs face increases in mandatory appeals, which form the major portion of their caseloads.

The number of appeals varies widely from state to state. One way that this is seen is in the concentration of appeals.

- Eight states account for a majority of the nation's appeals.

- Eleven states had less than 1,000 appeals filed in 1990.

The number of appeals filed in a particular state is strongly correlated with the state's population. Taking population into account allows for a more meaningful comparison of appellate caseload levels across the states. One relationship is the dominance of mandatory appeals in all first-level appellate courts.

- First-level appellate courts are similar in caseload composition. Whether they are COLRs without an IAC or IACs with large caseloads, they tend to handle virtually all mandatory cases. These mandatory cases are the bulk of their respective state's appeals.

Because mandatory appeals must be heard, the increasing number of these appeals in first-level appellate courts, as well as in many COLRs with IACs, increases caseload pressure on the courts. In addition, the number of discretionary petitions continues to rise. Thus, an important policy concern is the success with which appellate courts are disposing of their growing caseloads. An examination of clearance rates shows mixed results. For example, with respect to mandatory appeals, one-half of the COLRs had clearance rates above 100 in 1990, while fewer than one-quarter of the IACs met with similar success. The difficulties experienced by IACs seem to be ongoing. Compared with the three-year rates (which provide an average measure of clearance between 1988 and 1990), clearance rates for courts of last resort in 1990 tend to be higher, indicating increasing success in case disposition, while the situation in the intermediate appellate courts is reversed.

- The bulk of the mandatory appeals are filed in the IACs, and many of these courts are having continuing problems disposing of their caseload.

Part of the explanation for why most state court appellate systems were unable to dispose of as many cases as were filed from 1988 to 1990 is steadily increasing caseloads. The data contained in this *Report* indicate that between 1984 and 1990 state COLR and IAC caseloads grew in a majority of appellate courts. However, growth was not uniform, and it is important to note where the increases in the number of appeals occurred.

- Mandatory appeals substantially increased from 1984 to 1990 in most first-level appeals courts—intermediate appellate courts and courts of last resort without an intermediate appellate court.

- Discretionary petitions grew consistently from 1984 to 1990 in a majority of courts of last resort and in a majority of intermediate appellate courts, although there are a limited number of IACs for which data are not available.

These trends have important consequences because they indicate that the largest segments of both IAC and COLR caseloads are increasing at the most rapid rate: mandatory appeals in IACs and discretionary petitions in COLRs.

Parts III, IV, and V: the data, court structure, and essential recordkeeping practices. Part III contains the detailed caseload statistics. Appellate court caseloads in 1990 are enumerated in the first six tables. Table 1 gives the total caseload for appellate courts for the year and describes the comparability and completeness of that information. Tables 2-6 describe particular types of appellate cases and particular aspects of case processing.

Trial court caseloads in 1990 are detailed in the next six tables. Table 7 shows the total trial court caseload and the comparability and completeness of the underlying state statistics. Table 8 reviews the total number of cases filed and disposed for each state and individual courts within each state. Tables 9-12 describe the civil, criminal, traffic/other ordinance violation, and juvenile caseloads of state trial courts.

Tables 13-16 describe trends in the volume of case filings and dispositions. Tables 13 and 14 indicate the patterns between 1984-90 for mandatory and discretionary cases in state appellate courts. The trend in felony case filings in state trial courts for the same period is contained in Table 15, and the trend in tort filings for those six years is in Table 16.

All of the tables in Part III are intended as basic reference sources. Each one compiles information from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In addition, the tables indicate the extent of standardization in the numbers for each state. The factors that most strongly affect the comparability of caseload information across the states are incorporated into the tables. Footnotes explain how a court system's reported caseloads are related to the standard categories for reporting such information recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989.* The user is alerted to three possible circumstances that qualify the completeness of the reported number. Caseload numbers are cited if they are incomplete in the types of cases represented, if they are overinclusive, or both. Numbers without footnotes should be interpreted as in compliance with the *Dictionary's* standard definitions.

Part IV presents the overall structure of each state court system using the format of a one-page chart. The charts identify all of the state courts in operation during the year, describe their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, note the number of authorized judicial positions, indicate whether funding is primarily local or state, and outline the routes of appeal that link the courts.

Part V lists jurisdiction and state court-reporting practices that may affect the comparability of caseload information reported by the courts. Eight figures note, for example, the time period used for court statistical reporting, whether calendar year, fiscal year, or court calendar year; define the method by which cases are counted in appellate courts and in criminal, civil, and juvenile trial courts; and identify trial courts with the authority to hear appeals. The figures define what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseloads on a similar basis. The most important information in the figures for making comparative use of caseload statistics is repeated in the main caseload tables (Part III).

Appendix A reviews the method used to collate the information provided by the states into a standard format. This *Report* improves the completeness and accuracy of the information provided as compared to previous editions. The procedural changes responsible for the improvement are described, as are the specific returns in the form of new data and corrections to previously reported caseloads.

WHAT IS THE GENERAL UTILITY? The value of the *Report* lies in its capacity to inform the public and policymakers about increased demands placed on state court systems. Effective policy planning at the local, state, and national level depends on a sound and comprehensive court statistical database to assess the current business of the state courts, to help identify emerging trends in litigation, and to establish long-term needs. Bringing together comparable state court caseload statistics can help courts establish goals and develop policies by providing a yardstick against which states can assess performance and measure the possible impact of legislation and of procedures for forecasting budget requirements.

THE NCSC COURT STATISTICS PROJECT. The NCSC Court Statistics Project was established in 1977 to develop a meaningful profile of the work of the state courts. The caseload report series and other project publications, such as the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary,* seek to encourage uniformity in how courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information.

The 1990 *Report,* like previous reports, is a joint effort by the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, oversees the preparation of Project publications and provides policy guidance for devising or revising generic reporting categories and procedures. The NCSC provides Project staff and support facilities. Preparation of the 1990 *Report* is funded by a grant to the NCSC from the State Justice Institute.

The staff of the Court Statistics Project can provide advice and clarification on the use of the statistics from this and previous caseload reports. Project staff can also provide the full range of information available from each state. The prototype spreadsheets (Appendix C) used by Project staff to collect data reflect the full range of information sought from the states. Most states provide far more detailed caseload information than that presented in Part III of this report.

Comments, suggestions, and corrections from users of the *Report* are encouraged. Questions and reactions to the *Report* can be sent to:

Director, Court Statistics Project
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798

PART 1

TRIAL COURT CASELOADS IN 1990 AND 1984–90 TRENDS

• • • • • • • • • •

Sheer volume is the most striking feature of state trial court caseloads in 1990: more than 100 million cases were filed. Not only does this total number of cases represent a high-water mark, but the four major categories composing the total—civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic cases—are also at all-time high levels. This means that the caseload total in 1990 was equivalent to one court case for every other adult in the United States.

Part I uses caseload statistics to describe the work of the state trial courts and to assess the consequences of rising caseload volume on the capacity of courts to hear and to decide cases. In addressing volume, a basic analytical distinction is made between caseload levels and caseload trends. Looking at 1990 caseload levels, issues examined include:

- The volume of cases in the state trial courts. How is the caseload distributed between limited jurisdiction and general jurisdiction courts? How do caseload levels, adjusted for population, compare across different states?

- The resolution of litigation. Are more new cases being filed annually than the courts are disposing of during the year, thus contributing to the size of the pending caseload? Which states have experienced the greatest difficulties in keeping up with the annual inflow of cases?

- The adequacy of court resources. How does the number of case filings in the state courts compare to the caseload in the federal court system? How does the provision of judicial support staff in one state compare to the staff in other states with similar filings or dispositions per judge?

An examination of caseload trends offers a perspective by indicating whether 1990 state court caseloads are in a period of stability or flux. Further, trends inform whether caseload growth or decline is consistent among the states and across types of cases. Particular issues include:

- Tort litigation. What are the dimensions of growth in tort litigation? Is there a uniform pattern throughout the country? Or does tort growth vary by region and population density? How does tort litigation compare in volume to contract and real property rights cases?

- Felony filing rates. Are more felonies filed each year? Is the number of felonies increasing, decreasing, or remaining constant over time? Do felony filings exhibit a consistent growth pattern throughout the country?

Trends allow an appraisal of whether state trial court caseloads are being affected by either short-term factors or basic underlying factors such as the legal system, the economy, and other demographic features. Moreover, trend analysis allows each state to serve as its own baseline. States tend to retain their systems for classifying and counting caseloads, reducing concern over the impact of units of count, points of count, and the composition of specific caseload categories. When changes do occur from one year to the next in a state's caseload, the alteration can be examined in relation to planned changes in statutes and procedural rules.

The primary goals of the Court Statistics Project are to collect and to disseminate comparable state court caseload statistics. For the first time, trial court caseload statistics are available for all states. This *Report* contains the most complete and accurate state trial court caseload data available, although statistics from some states are incomplete.[1] The focus of Part I of this *Report* is the trial court. This section begins with a summary of overall state trial court activity in 1990. Caseload patterns between and within courts of general and limited jurisdiction are then highlighted. Variation among states in the rates at which civil, criminal, and juvenile caseloads were filed and disposed of in 1990 as well as trends in total civil, tort, contract, real property rights, and felony caseloads are then reviewed and discussed. The main conclusions are then summarized.

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[1] The sources of state court caseload statistics and the collection methodology are discussed in more detail in Appendix A.

Comparability and Reliability of Data

A working knowledge of factors that affect the comparability of the caseload statistics is necessary before proceeding further. *Comparable* in this report refers to the standard for reporting court caseloads established by the Conference of State Court Administrators, through its Court Statistics Committee, as defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.[2]

The issue of comparability arises because there are 50 states and, therefore, 50 state judicial systems. These systems are similar in broad outline, but they vary in the details of their organization and business. In particular, the factors that most affect the comparability of data in this *Report* are due to differences in:

- **Jurisdiction:** the territory, subject matter, or persons, as determined by statute or constitution, over which a particular court system has legal authority.
- **Statistical terminology:** the extent to which the case type definitions and statistical reporting categories conform to the model approach outlined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.
- **Management information systems:** whether the caseload data are collected, categorized, and reported so as to be available to the Court Statistics Project.

The reporting of felony caseloads provides an example. In all state court systems, the courts of general jurisdiction have authority to try felony cases. There is, however, variation across state court systems in whether the court of limited jurisdiction also hears felony cases. There are states where the limited jurisdiction courts have no jurisdiction over felony cases. Where limited jurisdiction courts do have felony jurisdiction, even if it is restricted, the number of felony cases reported at the general jurisdiction court level automatically will be reduced and thereby will limit comparability with other states. Additionally, there are differences in what is counted as a felony case. Some state court systems count each separate felony defendant and all charges involved in a single incident as a single case; others count multiple defendants involved in a single incident as separate cases; while still other court systems count each separate charge as a case. Finally, while most state court systems currently count and report felony caseload totals, there are still some that do not. The absence of data is often due to a management information system that is not designed to generate information on particular case types.

Throughout the *Report*, certain terms are used to describe how closely the statistical terminology of a particular state court system conforms to the model statistical reporting practices recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Conformity is affected by two major factors: (1) the composition of the caseload categories (the specific types of cases that are included) and (2) the method by which the count is taken (i.e., the unit of count that constitutes a case and the point at which the count is taken). **Text Table I.1** provides a more in-depth discussion of these factors.

Differences among state court systems make the collecting, the reporting, and the interpreting of state court caseload statistics a challenge. Meeting this challenge underlies the organization of this *Report*. Parts I and II offer a commentary on trial and appellate court caseloads, but draw on materials from three other parts of the *Report* to clarify and document important differences between state court systems. Part III presents the main caseload statistics tables. These tables show the availability of caseload statistics nationally and explain differences in how cases are categorized across courts. Part IV contains the court structure and jurisdiction charts. Part V provides a set of figures that further describes court jurisdiction and statistical reporting practices.

State Trial Court Volume in 1990

States reported that 100,555,147 cases were filed in trial courts in 1990, a total consisting of 18,382,137 civil cases, 13,074,146 criminal cases, 1,543,667 juvenile cases, and 67,555,197 traffic and other ordinance violation cases. To put the more than 100 million state trial court filings into perspective, **Chart I.1** shows the number of filings for the period 1984 to 1990.[3] The pattern is one of consistent year-to-year increases, with the number of filings increasing by over 18 percent during the 1984-1990 period.[4] In contrast, those seven years saw the nation's population grow by just over 5 percent.

Total trial court filings are composed of a broad range of case types. In the *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series, total filings are divided into four main categories: (1) civil, (2) criminal, (3) juvenile, and (4) traffic/other ordinance violation cases. These categories represent the basic information that one can reasonably expect most states to provide. Abbreviated definitions of these categories are provided in **Text Table I.2**.

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[2] Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989 (1989).

[3] The caseload statistics series published by the National Center for State Courts began in 1975. However, the period 1984 to 1990 is the longest continuous time span for which caseload data comparable to that reported in this volume can be obtained for a significant number of state courts. The only other annual series on state court caseloads was collected and published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The last volume in that series reported statistics in 1946.

[4] The figure of 18 percent reflects the increase in reported caseload during this seven-year period. This percentage increase is likely to somewhat overstate the actual growth in total caseload because the reporting courts are not constant over time, with some courts and states being added and some, a smaller number, dropping out.

TEXT TABLE I.1: Explanation of Factors Affecting Caseload Comparability

Composition refers to the construction of caseload-reporting categories that contain similar types of cases for which counts are taken of filed and disposed-of cases. Once a standard is defined for the types of cases that belong in a category, it becomes possible to compare court caseloads. The standard for the *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series is the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.

A count can be:

- complete: it includes all of the types of cases in the definition
- incomplete: it omits some types of cases that should be included
- overinclusive: it includes some types of cases that should not be included
- both incomplete and overinclusive

For example, the definition of a criminal case found in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* includes the offense of driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI). A general jurisdiction trial court that reaches decisions in such cases but classifies them, for reporting purposes, with traffic violations rather than with criminal cases will have its total criminal caseload footnoted as "incomplete." Conversely, the count of traffic and other ordinance violation cases will be "overinclusive" in that court, since it includes cases that should, according to the standard, be classified as criminal.

Methods for taking counts vary. Comparability is affected by basic decisions a state or court makes when designing its court records system. Variation is found in two main areas:

- The point of filing: the point in the litigation process when the count is taken. For example, some appellate courts count the receipt of the "notice of appeal" as the step that initiates the appellate process. Other courts wait until the trial court record is prepared and transmitted to the appellate court before counting a filing, by which time some appeals have been withdrawn, settled, or dismissed, especially in civil cases (see Figure B, Part V).
- The unit of count: what, precisely, a court counts as a case. For example, trial courts differ in what is counted as a filing. For criminal cases, some courts treat each charge as the unit of count, some count each defendant, and some count charging documents that contain multiple charges and/or multiple defendants. These practices are described using a common framework in Figure D, Part V, of this report.

Charts, graphs and maps summarize caseload and related information from other parts of the report in a comparable manner. However, differences in case volume observed in 1990 reflect many factors, including the constitutions, statutes, court structure and rules, as well as the recordkeeping practices, of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

As shown in **Chart I.2**, the case types that consume the majority of court time and resources (civil, criminal, and juvenile) have all experienced consistent growth from 1984 to 1990. Over this period, civil caseloads have grown by 30 percent, criminal caseloads by 33 percent, and juvenile caseloads by 28 percent. Traffic caseloads have increased by only 12 percent, but show the largest amount of growth in terms of the sheer number of cases during the past seven years.[5]

Court Structure

American courts inhabit two different though related realms—state and federal. There are currently 50 states and, therefore, 50 state trial and appellate systems. Separate systems similar to the state courts also exist in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.[6] (For expository purposes, the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will all be referred to as "state courts" throughout the remainder of this *Report*.)

The federal judiciary and the 52 state courts are similar in broad outline, but they vary in the detail of their organization and business. Whereas the federal courts are relatively uniform throughout the country, state court systems vary greatly in structure, and none are simple to describe. In general, there are four types of state court systems: (1) consolidated, (2) complex, (3) mixed, and (4) mainly consolidated. Differences in court structure and jurisdiction are important to the understanding of caseload data from a state. Hence, some important dimensions on which state trial court systems differ need to be reviewed before examining and comparing state caseloads in more detail.

The conventional wisdom of state court reform stresses the virtues of consolidation. In trial courts, two dimensions on which this is manifest are the uniformity and the simplicity of jurisdiction. Uniform jurisdiction means that all trial courts at each level have identical authority to decide cases. Simplicity in jurisdiction means that the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction does not overlap between levels. The degree of consolidation offers a related basis for classification, indexing the extent to which states have merged limited and special

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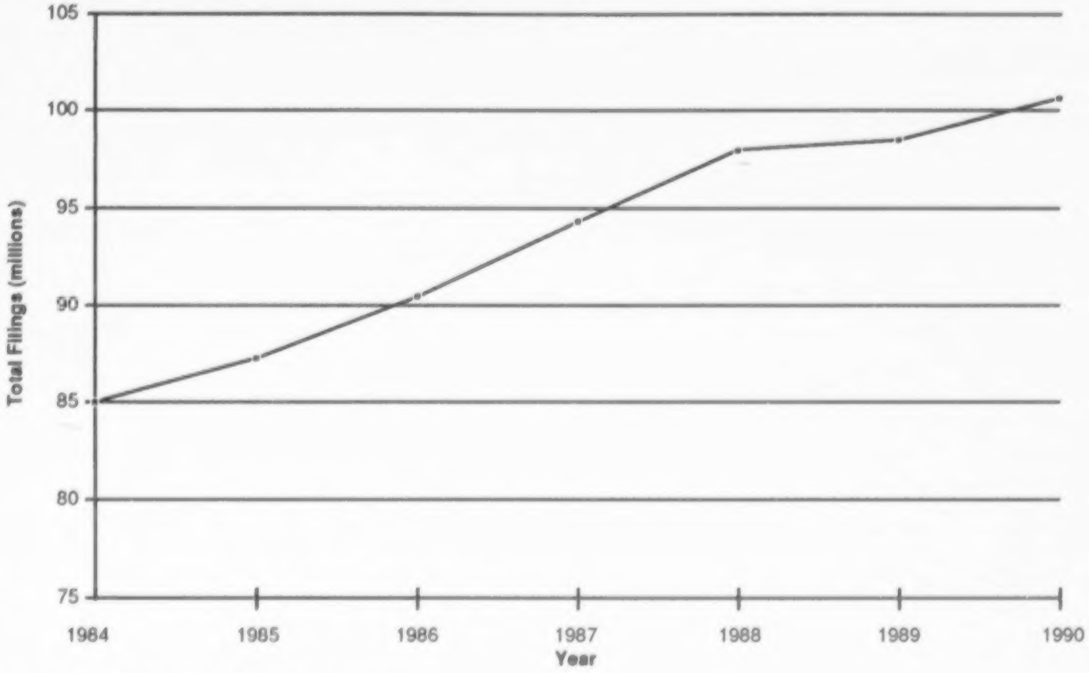
[5] Total traffic filings have risen from 60,407,938 in 1984 to 67,555,197 in 1990.

[6] There are territorial courts in the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, court statistics are not collected from these territorial courts.

CHART I.1: Total Filings in the State Courts, 1984-90



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

TEXT TABLE I.2: Abbreviated Definitions of the Four Main Reporting Categories Used in the *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* Series

Civil case:	request for an enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong.
Criminal case:	charge of a state law violation.
Juvenile petition:	case processed through the special procedures that a state established to handle matters relating to individuals defined as juveniles.
Traffic/other ordinance violation:	charge that a traffic law or a city, town, or village ordinance was violated.

Complete definitions of these terms as well as all statistical and related terms used in classifying state court caseload statistics are found in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989.*

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

jurisdiction courts. **Maps I.1** through **I.4** summarize the differences present in state court structure during 1990.

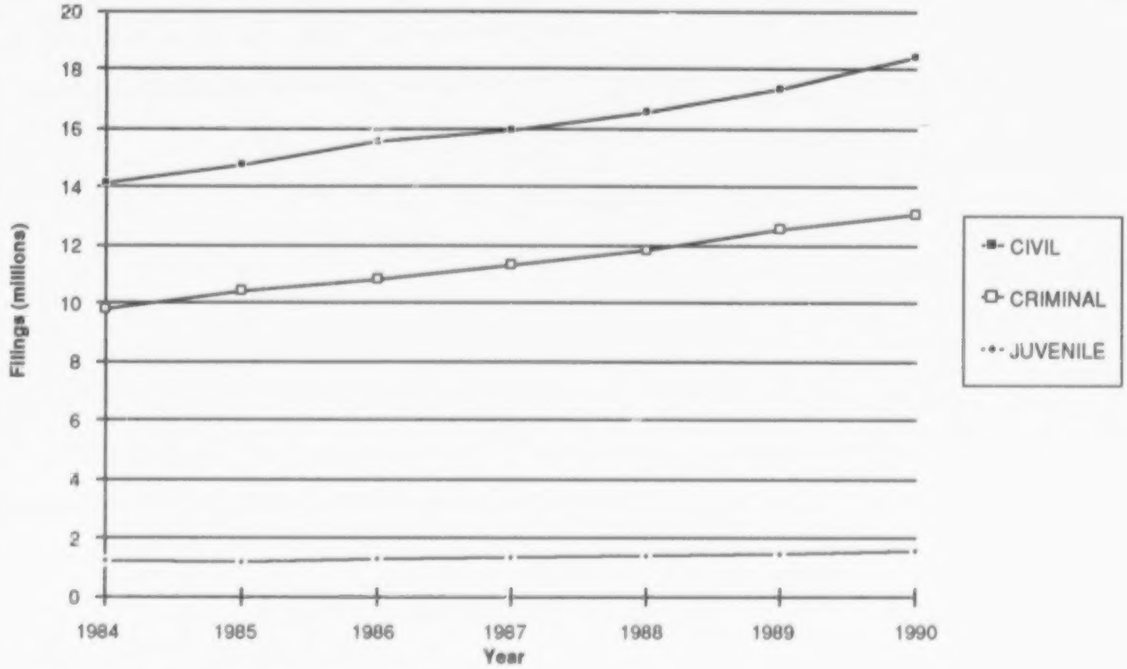
General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts: Jurisdiction and Caseload

General Jurisdiction Courts

In most states, the trial court is divided into two levels: (1) an upper level and (2) a lower level. The upper-level trial court, which usually has original jurisdiction over all subject matter or persons within its geographical limits is called the court of general jurisdiction. In the criminal area, general jurisdiction courts have authority to try felony cases and to impose the maximum penalty authorized by state statute. On the civil side, they have unlimited jurisdiction over all matters not specifically assigned to a court of limited or special jurisdiction. These are courts of record from which an appeal is available.

Chart I.3 summarizes general jurisdiction court filings in 1990. Civil case filings represented one-third of the total caseload (34 percent), criminal case filings nearly one-eighth (14 percent), and juvenile cases less than one-twentieth (4 percent). Even though general

CHART I.2: Total Filings by Major Category, 1984-90



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

jurisdiction courts are the major, upper-level trial courts, nearly one-half of their caseload consists of traffic/other ordinance violation cases (48 percent). While traffic cases are a major part of many states' general jurisdiction court caseload, it is particularly pronounced in those states (e.g., District of Columbia, Illinois, and Minnesota) where all matters, including traffic, are heard exclusively by a general jurisdiction court because there is no lower court.

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

In 1990, 44 states had a lower-level trial court consisting of courts of limited or special jurisdiction. Variously called municipal, district, justice, justice of the peace, or magistrate courts, these courts are restricted in the range of cases that they can decide. Yet, the bulk of the nation's disputes are handled in these courts of limited jurisdiction. The number of such courts ranges from zero in the seven states with unified court systems (although a special section of the general jurisdiction court hears minor cases) to more than 1,000 courts in Georgia, New York, and Texas. Although a state appellate court might review some judgments of limited jurisdiction courts, review is typically restricted to general jurisdiction courts.

Limited jurisdiction courts are dominated by traffic cases, though more and more of these cases are being routed to administrative agencies for expedited, nonadversarial disposition.[7] The proportions of civil and criminal cases in limited jurisdiction courts vary greatly from state to state. With respect to civil caseloads, one-fourth of these courts are limited to hearing cases involving claims of less than $3,000. Many of these courts have exclusive jurisdiction over specialized areas, most commonly juvenile.

Chart I.4 divides the limited jurisdiction court caseload into the four main case types. Civil and criminal filings each account for nearly equivalent shares of the total, 12 and 13 percent, respectively, while juvenile filings represent 1 percent. The remaining three-fourths (74 percent) of the filings are traffic/other ordinance violation cases.

To gain a perspective on the caseload totals from general and limited jurisdiction courts, the number of judges and courts that are available to decide the cases is summarized in **Text Table I.3.** As expected, there are far more judges in limited jurisdiction courts. Of the reported total of 100,555,147 court filings, 27,006,094 were in general jurisdiction courts (27 percent of the total).

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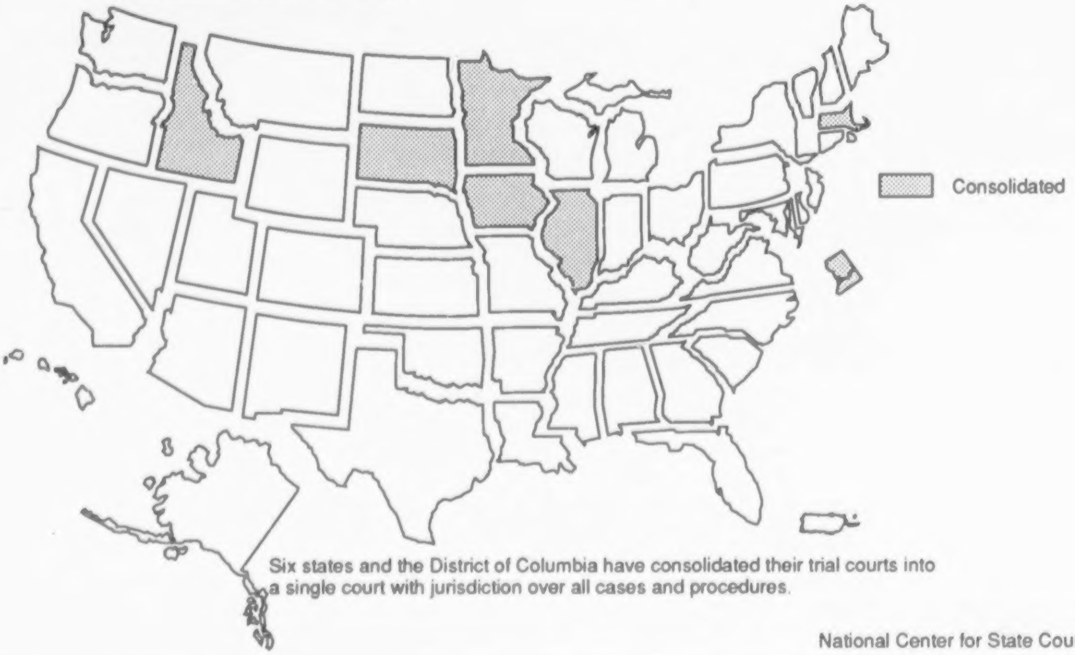
[7] For example, the Illinois traffic caseload dropped dramatically due to administrative handling of parking cases for the city of Chicago (Cook County) beginning with the fourth quarter of the year.

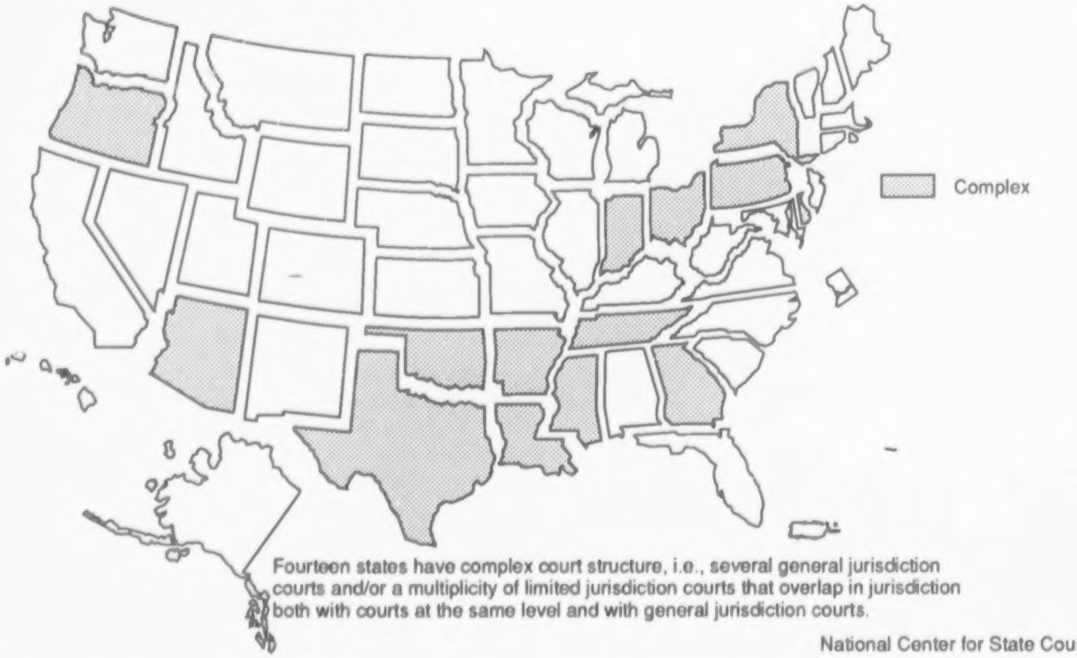
MAP I.1: Trial Court Structure, 1990
Consolidated court structure



Six states and the District of Columbia have consolidated their trial courts into a single court with jurisdiction over all cases and procedures.

National Center for State Courts, 1992

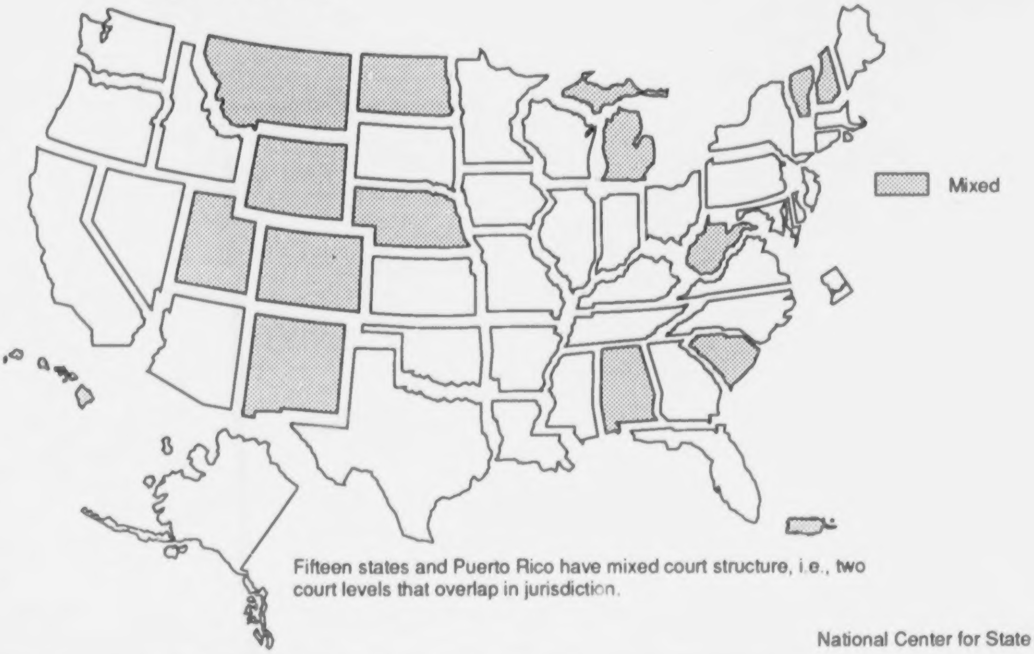
MAP I.2: Trial Court Structure, 1990
Complex court structure



Fourteen states have complex court structure, i.e., several general jurisdiction courts and/or a multiplicity of limited jurisdiction courts that overlap in jurisdiction both with courts at the same level and with general jurisdiction courts.

National Center for State Courts, 1992

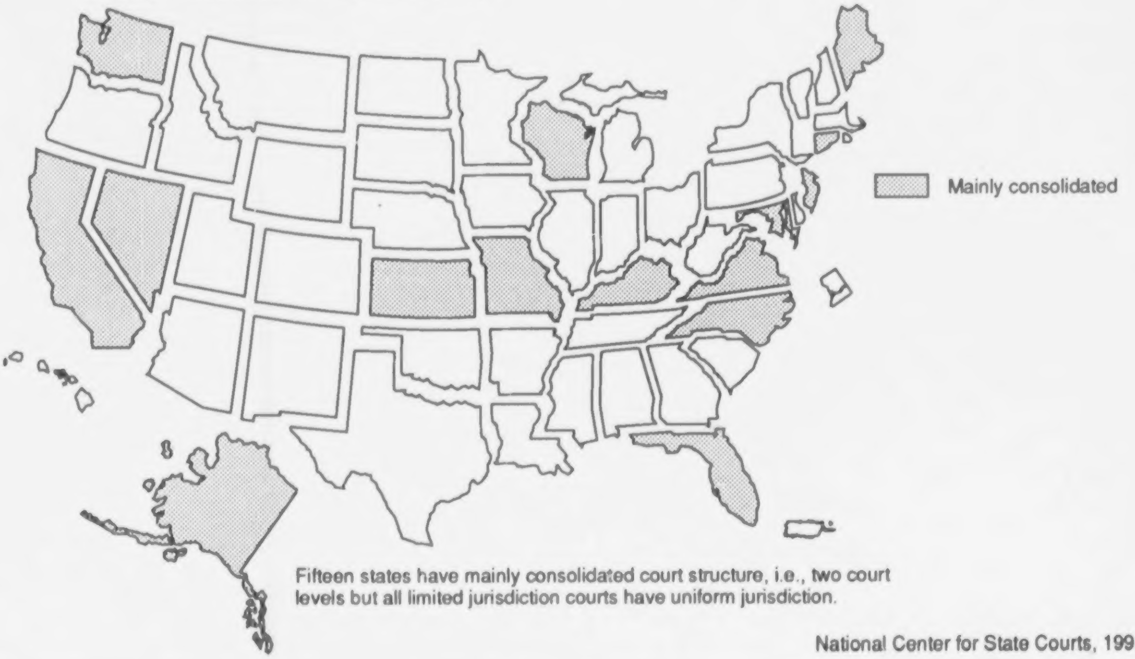
MAP I.3: Trial Court Structure, 1990
Mixed court structure



Fifteen states and Puerto Rico have mixed court structure, i.e., two court levels that overlap in jurisdiction.

National Center for State Courts, 1992

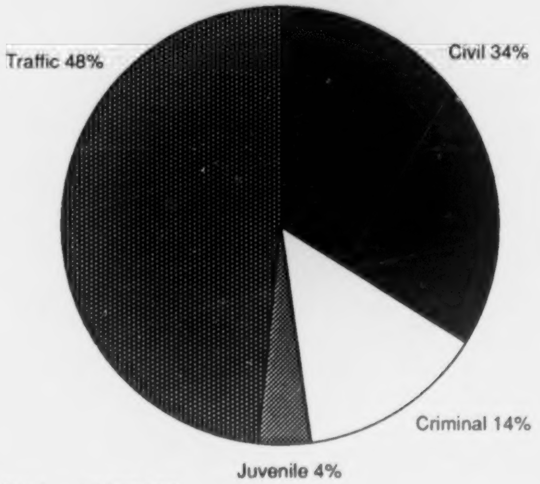
MAP I.4: Trial Court Structure, 1990
Mainly consolidated court structure



Fifteen states have mainly consolidated court structure, i.e., two court levels but all limited jurisdiction courts have uniform jurisdiction.

National Center for State Courts, 1992

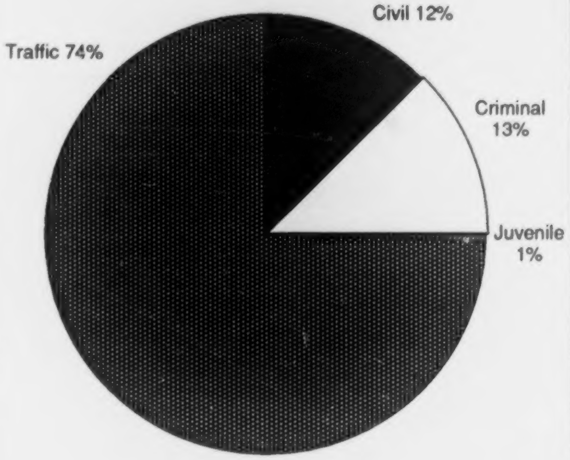
Chart I.3: The Composition of Trial Court Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



Total = 27,006,094

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Chart I.4: The Composition of Trial Court Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



Total = 73,549,053

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

TEXT TABLE I.3: State Trial Courts in Aggregate, 1990

Total Trial Court Cases Filed In 1990: **100,555,147**

16,453	Courts:	27,559	Judges:
2,451	General Jurisdiction Courts	9,325	Judges
14,002	Limited Jurisdiction Courts	18,234	Judges

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Composition of Trial Court Caseloads: 1990 and 1984-90 Trends

A more detailed analysis of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases follows. The analysis blends an in-depth examination of each case type in 1990 with information on 1984 to 1990 trends.

Civil Filings in 1990 and 1984-90 Trends

States reported the filing of 18,382,137 civil cases in 1990, which is an increase of over 5 percent from the previous year. In examining the recent history of civil caseloads in the state courts, a number of issues are covered. They include the following:

- The volume of civil caseloads. How are civil cases distributed between general and limited jurisdiction courts? What is the variation in the size of civil caseloads among states? After adjusting for population, are state civil caseload levels similar or different across the country?
- Clearance rates for civil cases. Are courts keeping up with the inflow of new civil cases? Are courts that have experienced above-average increases in civil caseloads having more trouble than other courts in disposing of their cases?
- The composition of civil caseloads. What is the largest category of civil cases? What is the smallest category? Is the composition of civil cases similar or different across the country?
- Domestic relations cases. What is the composition of domestic relations caseloads? Are civil courts really "divorce courts"?
- Tort, contract, and real property rights. Is there evidence of a "litigation explosion" in tort filings? Are torts growing at a faster or slower rate than contract or real property rights cases?

Text Table I.4 shows total civil filings[8] in general and limited jurisdiction courts in 1990 as well as each state's

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[8] A civil case is a request for the enforcement or protection of a right, or the redress or prevention of a wrong. To meet the definition recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, the category includes all torts, contracts, real property rights, small claims, domestic relations, mental health, and estate cases over which the court has jurisdiction. It also includes all appeals of administrative agency decisions filed in the court and appeals to general jurisdiction courts of decisions by limited jurisdiction trial courts in civil cases.

TEXT TABLE I.4: Total Civil Filings in General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990

State	Total Civil Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Civil Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Total Civil Filings	Population Ranking
Alaska	13,861	19,408	33,269	51
Wyoming	10,744	22,887	33,631	52
North Dakota	18,131	16,269	34,400	48
Vermont	35,375	4,496	39,871	50
South Dakota	40,573	NC	40,573	46
Hawaii	28,179	24,510	52,689	42
Idaho	62,075	NC	62,075	43
Delaware	9,255	60,779	70,034	47
Maine	6,893	66,462	73,355	39
West Virginia	43,658	51,363	95,021	35
New Hampshire	33,709	75,221	108,930	41
Nebraska	51,504	57,557	109,061	37
Puerto Rico	70,961	57,970	128,931	27
Utah	29,947	105,901	135,848	36
District of Columbia	141,053	NC	141,053	49
Kansas	160,398	NJ	160,398	33
Oregon	93,972	89,127	183,099	30
Iowa	184,692	NC	184,692	31
Oklahoma	205,833	NA	205,833	29
Colorado	99,429	114,830	214,259	26
Minnesota	215,792	NC	215,792	20
Kentucky	67,914	148,803	216,717	23
Connecticut	173,337	57,467	230,804	28
Arizona	111,080	138,499	249,579	24
Louisiana	185,872	66,208	252,080	21
Washington	147,111	111,760	258,871	18
Alabama	94,189	169,364	263,553	22
Missouri	264,923	NJ	264,923	15
South Carolina	55,151	248,567	303,718	25
Wisconsin	341,909	NJ	341,909	16
Indiana	294,730	146,310	441,040	14
Massachusetts	560,420	NC	560,420	13
North Carolina	114,005	501,625	615,630	10
Pennsylvania	302,739	384,429	687,168	5
Illinois	695,416	NC	695,416	6
Michigan	207,022	519,315	726,337	8
Ohio	398,357	416,975	815,332	7
New Jersey	844,051	6,324	850,375	9
Maryland	128,893	738,202	867,095	19
Texas	454,991	425,419	880,410	3
Florida	557,913	354,358	912,271	4
Virginia	113,927	1,184,078	1,298,005	12
New York	219,605	1,091,762	1,311,367	2
California	685,816	1,135,866	1,821,682	1

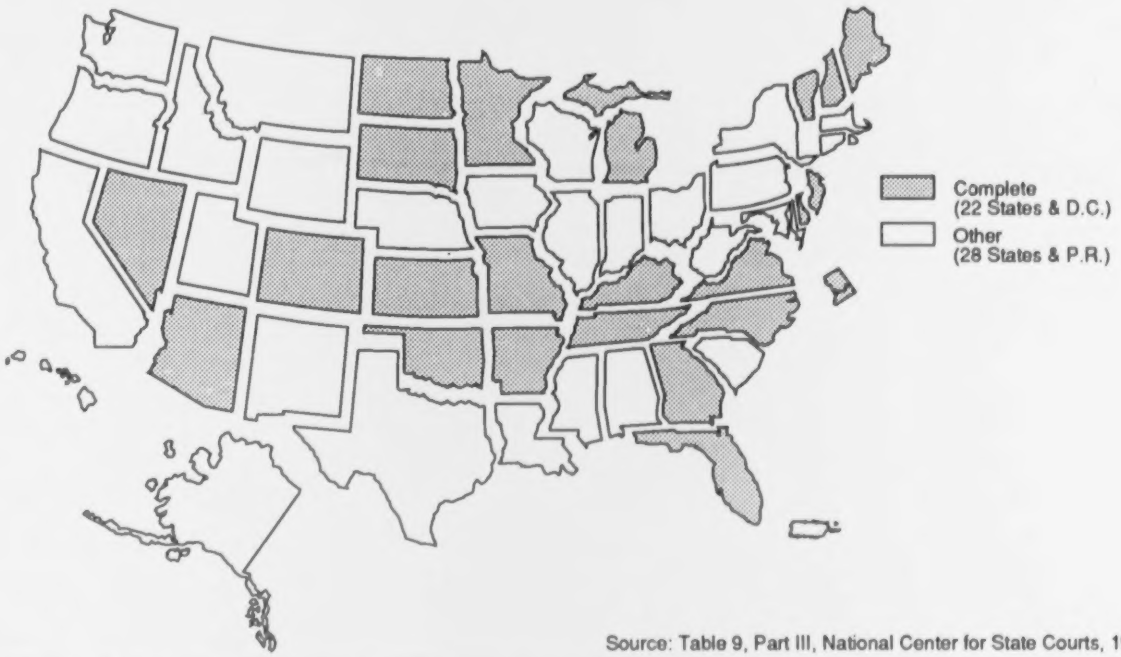
NA = Data are not available
NC = There is no court of limited jurisdiction
NJ = Court does not have civil jurisdiction

Source: Table 9, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

population ranking.[9] A review of the footnotes to Table 9, Part III (p. 119), indicates the degree to which states report data conforming to the recommended definition. **Map I.5** shows the states that report complete and comparable civil filing data in their courts of general jurisdiction. Specifically, 23 states reported complete and comparable civil filing data in 1990.

Civil filings in the state courts (Text Table I.4) exhibit two distinct patterns. First, the range is wide: total civil filings extend from a low of 33,269 filings in Alaska to a

MAP I.5: States with Complete Civil Filing Data in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



Source: Table 9, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

high of 1,821,682 filings in California. Second, civil cases are highly concentrated in particular states.

- The 9.5 million civil filings in the nine states with the largest civil caseloads account for more than 50 percent of the total of 18.4 million.

- Seven of these nine states are among the nine states with the largest populations, underscoring the relationship between population levels and total civil filing rates.

- Although nine states courts must cope with large numbers of civil cases, the civil burden is not greatly disproportionate to those states' share of the national population.

How close is the relationship between population and civil filings? **Chart I.5** presents the relationship between population and civil filings. The squares in the chart represent individual states. Each state's position in the chart is determined by both its population and its filings, which are measured along the vertical and horizontal lines, respectively. For example, the square in the upper-right-hand corner of the chart stands for California, with its population of nearly 30 million and civil caseload numbering over 1.8 million.

If civil filings are a function of population, then one expects the squares to fall in a relatively straight line. The observed relationship is indeed quite close: the larger a state's population, the more civil cases are filed[10] In the chart a line is drawn that represents a precise quantitative measure of how much of an increase in filings is produced by an increase in population.[11] Because most states are close to the line, one can infer that population is an important determinant of the absolute number of cases. Hence, adjusting for population should enhance basic comparability and should reveal other, more subtle factors that produce interstate differences among the civil filing levels.

CIVIL FILINGS PER 100,000 POPULATION. Chart I.6 displays the total civil case filings per 100,000 population in these 44 state court systems. By adjusting for population, we see whether the states do indeed look more or less like each other. If the states are similar, civil filing rates per 100,000 in each state should be close to the average for all the states.

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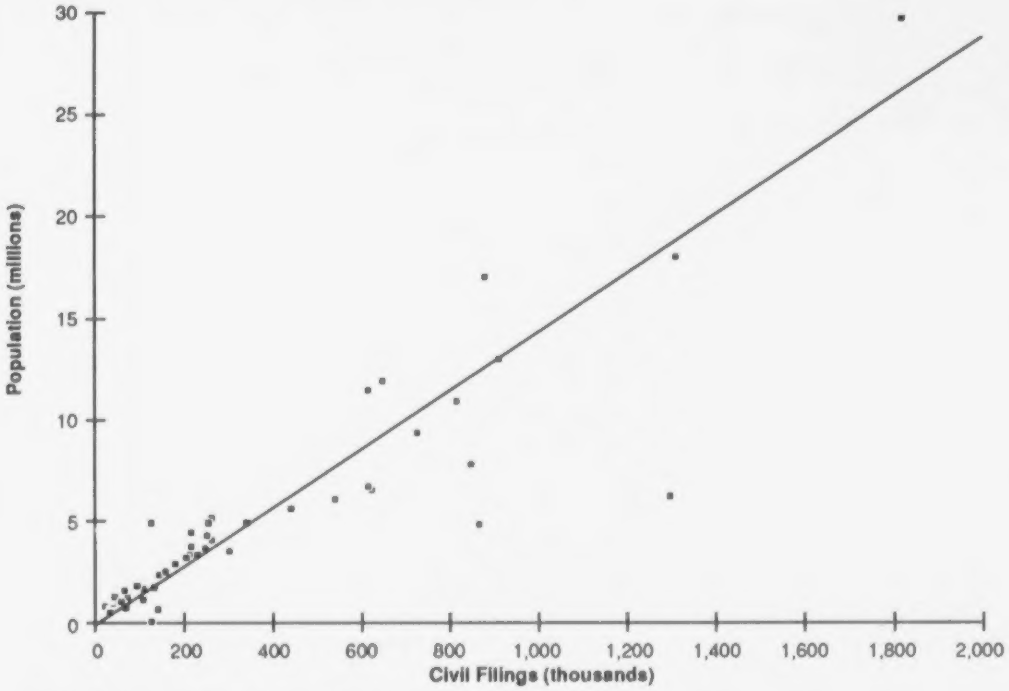
[9] The table contains data from 44 of the 52 state court systems. A state is excluded from the table only if the state's total civil caseload is less than 75 percent complete. Actual state population figures for 1984 to 1990 are provided in Appendix D.

[10] The relationship between population and total civil filings evident by a visual inspection is confirmed by a positive Pearson correlation coefficient of .90. This suggests that for every increase in a state's population, there is a proportional increase in the number of cases filed.

[11] The position and slope of the line is based on the application of linear regression analysis to the population and case-filing data for the states.

CHART I.5: Total Civil Filings by Population, 1990



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

- Most states report filing rates clustered near the median (between the rates of Iowa and Oklahoma). The clustering of many states close to the median is expected because population is closely related to civil filing levels.

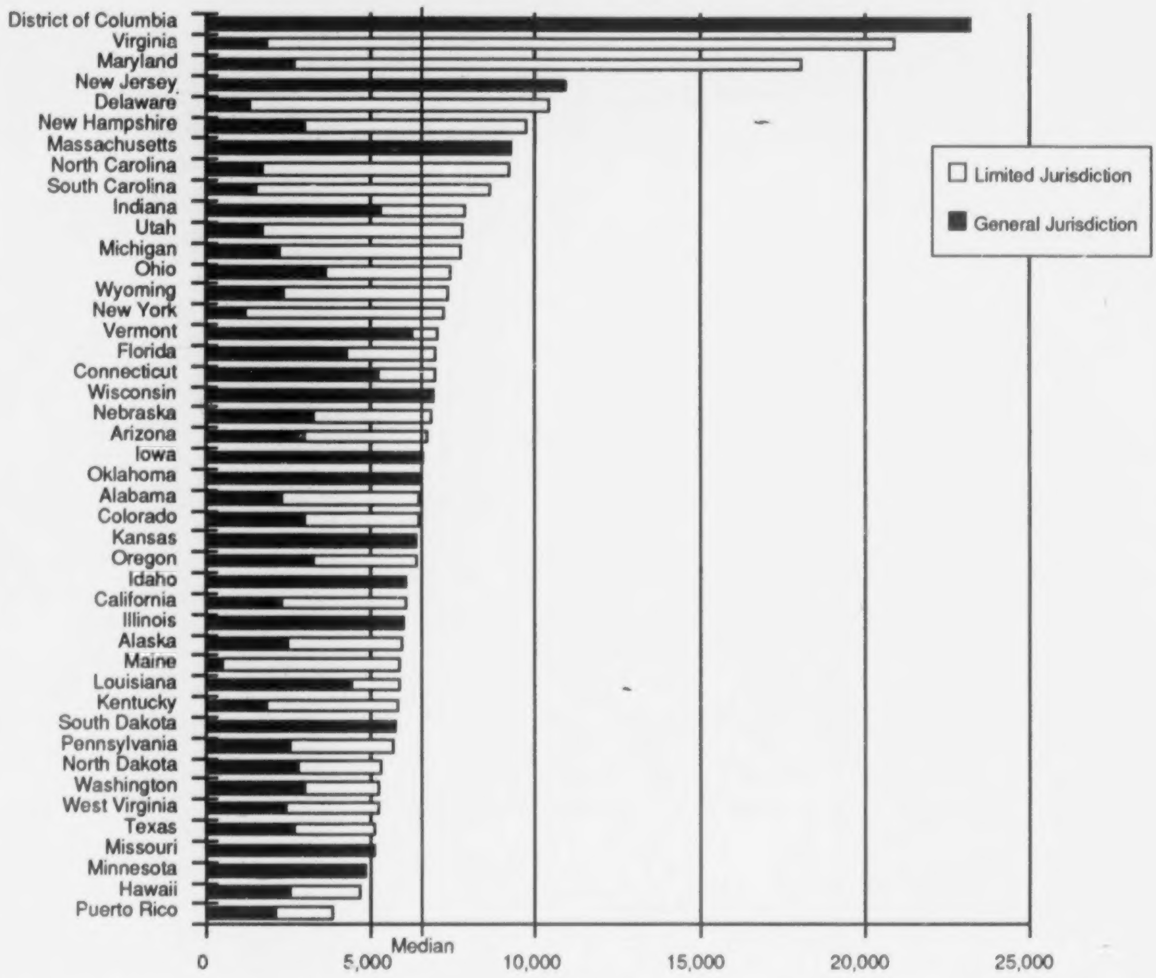
Yet, the adjusted figures that take population into account strongly suggest that other factors, in addition to population, influence civil case-filing rates. For example, of the 10 states with the highest adjusted filing rates in Chart I.6, only Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey are also among the top 10 states with the highest absolute civil caseloads. If population is the exclusive determinant of civil caseloads, the absolute and population-adjusted rankings of states should be the same. Because they are not, a valid inference is that the factors affecting civil filing rates involve other social, political, and economic forces in the state. As noted earlier, civil caseloads are also affected by such basic factors as how cases are classified and counted.

Reported civil caseloads are affected by the point at which filings are counted, whether reopened cases are treated as new filings, and the manner in which support/custody proceedings are incorporated into court statistics on marriage dissolution cases. Figure H, Part V (p. 277), details the method by which each court counts civil cases and Table 9, Part III (p. 119), the method by which support/custody cases are counted.

- Different approaches to counting civil, and especially support/custody, caseloads affect the ranking of states in **Chart I.6**.
- Differences in counting practices between courts of general and limited jurisdiction in a state are likely to influence the calculation of the share of the civil caseload heard at each court level.

As an example, Virginia's limited jurisdiction court, the district court, regards all reopened civil cases as new filings and counts support/custody proceedings as separate cases. Most states, and Virginia's general jurisdiction court, the circuit court, do not count reopened civil cases as new filings and count support/custody proceedings as part of the original marriage dissolution filing unless issues are involved that arise at a later point in time or as a postdecree action. The allocation of subject matter jurisdiction is also relevant. The circuit court in Virginia has domestic relations jurisdiction, with the exception of support/custody, URESA, and miscellaneous domestic relations cases, which can be heard in the district court. Thus, the relatively high rate of civil filings in Virginia and the atypical concentration of civil cases in the state's limited jurisdiction court are attributable, in part, to choices made when the state's court recordkeeping procedures were designed.

CHART I.6: Civil Case Filings per 100,000 Total Population in State Trial Courts, 1990



The following states are not included: AR, GA, MS, MT, NM, NV, RI, TN.

Source: Table 9, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

Courts hearing child support/custody cases in Florida, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming also count cases in ways that influence their civil filing rates relative to other states. On balance, however, a uniform method of counting might rearrange the order in which states are found in Chart I.6, but it is unlikely that the change would be significant.

- Differences in the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction between court levels strongly influence the percentage of cases that are heard at one level or the other.

Delaware is an example of how the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction affects the number of cases heard in limited and general jurisdiction courts. The overall high civil filing rate found in that state may reflect the state's popularity among companies seeking a jurisdiction in which to register as a corporation. However, Delaware is distinctive in having five separate limited jurisdiction courts with the authority to hear civil cases, including the family court, which has exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations cases. Fewer than one of every eight civil cases is filed in one of the state's two general jurisdiction court systems. Delaware's combination of a high filing rate and multiple limited civil jurisdiction courts is consistent with the general observation that states with high total civil filing rates have allocated substantial relevant subject matter jurisdiction to lower level courts.

Filings per 100,000 population provide a standard measure of caseload levels that adjusts for differences in population among the states. This measure does not,

TEXT TABLE I.5: Trends in Total Civil Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1984-90

State	Total Civil Index 1984	Total Civil Index 1985	Total Civil Index 1986	Total Civil Index 1987	Total Civil Index 1988	Total Civil Index 1989	Total Civil Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Alaska	100	110	99	91	88	86	83	110
Arizona	100	114	120	119	126	118	129	120
Arkansas	100	109	113	115	106	98	117	100
California	100	105	109	113	113	112	115	116
Colorado	100	105	121	120	125	121	112	104
Delaware	100	98	106	119	131	139	148	109
District of Columbia	100	106	104	102	109	104	101	97
Florida	100	110	115	116	123	135	145	118
Hawaii	100	101	101	100	105	106	109	107
Idaho	100	102	102	97	99	104	105	101
Illinois	100	107	78	81	100	93	105	99
Indiana	100	107	116	131	135	148	155	101
Iowa	100	108	103	117	120	121	126	95
Kansas	100	106	114	119	122	126	136	102
Maine	100	106	98	88	101	101	102	106
Maryland	100	102	109	109	115	119	132	110
Michigan	100	100	115	114	120	123	138	102
Missouri	100	105	116	116	121	124	124	102
Nebraska	100	111	104	103	129	131	145	98
New Hampshire	100	107	110	116	128	138	203	114
New Jersey	100	105	110	113	120	138	149	103
New Mexico	100	103	106	101	102	103	113	106
New York	100	100	95	96	91	164	173	101
North Carolina	100	106	111	119	125	134	138	108
North Dakota	100	104	110	112	127	126	132	93
Ohio	100	100	112	116	119	124	137	101
Oklahoma	100	103	106	104	93	90	96	95
Pennsylvania	100	123	120	119	124	134	138	100
Rhode Island	100	107	109	116	122	140	158	104
South Carolina	100	113	126	131	128	129	132	106
South Dakota	100	104	109	105	103	103	104	99
Texas	100	102	95	100	103	101	103	106
Utah	100	101	111	99	101	95	101	104
Vermont	100	123	121	120	125	131	151	106
Virginia	100	97	102	105	115	115	138	110
Washington	100	108	120	115	119	124	130	112
West Virginia	100	103	90	81	88	97	95	92
Wisconsin	100	111	109	111	110	95	109	103

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

however, provide information on whether a court is keeping up with its incoming civil caseload. Two factors complicate resource planning and the allocation of resources within the courts and are likely to affect the ability of a court system to dispose of its caseload quickly: (1) rapid, sustained caseload growth over time and (2) fluctuating caseloads, where big increases one year are followed by small increases or even declines in the next year. These issues are discussed next.

GROWTH IN CIVIL FILINGS, 1984-90. Comparable civil filing data for the period 1984 to 1990 can be obtained from general jurisdiction court systems in 38 states. The combined civil caseload from these 38 states rose by 24 percent between 1984 and 1990. In absolute terms, civil filings in these general jurisdiction courts rose from 6,847,480 in 1984 to 8,473,084 in 1990.

Text Table I.5 summarizes the experiences over those years of general jurisdiction courts in each state.[12] To help trace the year-to-year changes as well as to gauge the overall change, 1984 caseload levels have been set equal to 100.[13] Total civil filings have increased faster than population growth in 35 of the 38 states. Several points emerge when examining trends in total civil caseloads.

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[12] A state is included in this table if the reported civil data from the general jurisdiction court is at least 75 percent complete.

[13] The overall change in population is also expressed as an index number with the 1984 population set at 100 to allow a simple test of whether filings are growing at a faster rate than state population.

- Increases in total civil filings between 1989 and 1990 occurred in 33 of the 38 jurisdictions.
- In 26 jurisdictions, civil filings not only increased in 1990 but also reached their highest total ever during that year.
- Eight of the nine states which accounted for over 50 percent of the civil caseload volume all had record highs in civil filings in 1990.

Four of the nine states with the highest volume of civil cases had increases in excess of 36 percent in civil filings over the past seven years. In particular, New York, with an increase of 73 percent, New Jersey, with an increase of 49 percent, and Florida with an increase of 45 percent, are experiencing both high absolute filing levels and high rates of growth. These increases in high-volume states help to explain why the national total has grown since 1984.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR CIVIL CASES. Trial courts reduced the size of their pending civil caseload if they disposed of more civil cases during 1990 than were filed. **Text Table I.6** abstracts the relevant information from Table 9, Part III (p. 119), to present clearance rates for general jurisdiction and limited jurisdiction courts with the authority to hear civil cases. (The clearance rate is the number of dispositions in a year divided by the number of filings and multiplied by 100). General jurisdiction courts in 40 states and limited jurisdiction courts in 19 states are included in Text Table I.6.

- Most states ended 1990 with additions to pending caseloads.
- In courts of general jurisdiction, only 8 of the 40 states reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater for 1990.

The courts of Hawaii reported the largest clearance rate: 130.2 percent, followed by Alaska with 105.9 percent. The other states that also disposed of more cases than were filed did not reduce the size of their pending caseloads significantly. The reason is that their clearance rates were very close to 100. For the states with rates below 100, 16 courts reported clearance rates of between 95 and 100 percent. Seven courts reported clearance rates between 90 and 95 percent, while nine courts reported clearance rates of less than 90 percent, with the 79.3 percent in Maryland marking the lowest reported rate for that year.

Comparing the eight states with clearance rates below 90 percent in 1990 for which civil filing index numbers can be calculated (Text Table I.5) helps to show why some states are having difficulty clearing their civil caseloads. All eight states have experienced substantial growth in civil filings since 1984. For example, Delaware's civil filings have increased by 48 percent, Vermont's by 51 percent, and New Hampshire's by 103 percent. Additionally, the eight states experienced record civil filing levels in 1990. Finally, five of these eight courts saw their civil caseloads grow by more than 8 percent between 1989 and 1990.

To address the question of whether the findings for 1990 reflect short-term or long-term problems of the state courts, Text Table I.6 includes the clearance rates of the general and limited jurisdiction courts of each state from 1988, 1989, and 1990. Clearance rates over the three years are similar in some, but vary widely in other general jurisdiction courts. To take year-to-year fluctuations in clearance rates into account, a "three-year" clearance rate has been constructed. This three-year rate is computed by first summing all filings and dispositions during 1988-1990 and then dividing the three-year sum of dispositions by the corresponding sum of filings. Examining the three-year clearance rate provides the opportunity to see if courts are keeping up with new cases, despite a possible shortfall in a given year. Text Table I.6 is sorted by this three-year rate.

- Between 1988 and 1990, 18 of the 38 state general jurisdiction court systems for which it is possible to calculate a three-year clearance rate disposed of at least 98 percent of their civil filings.

However, the other 20 jurisdictions show a problem in keeping up with the inflow of cases. For 27 states the situation seems to be worsening in that the three-year rate exceeds the 1990 clearance rate. Because the three-year rate reflects the average success that a particular court has had in disposing of cases over the past three-years, the 27 states disposed of a lower percentage of cases than is typical over this three-year period.

An explanation for this condition may lie in the fact that the eight states with the lowest three-year clearance rates were a blend of the states with the highest absolute number of civil filings (Maryland, Florida, California, and Virginia) and states with the highest per capita civil filing rates (Delaware, New Hampshire, Virginia, and North Carolina). In addition, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Virginia experienced increases of 11 percent or more in their civil caseloads between 1989 and 1990. This pattern suggests that courts experiencing high absolute numbers of cases or high per capita filing rates are facing a diminishing capacity to deal with incoming caseloads.

Limited jurisdiction courts are, if anything, experiencing even a harder time in disposing of their civil caseloads than the courts of general jurisdiction. Text Table I.6 also shows clearance rates for the limited jurisdiction courts of 19 states.

- Only two statewide limited jurisdiction courts reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater for 1990.

TEXT TABLE I.6: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Civil Cases, 1988-90

General Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Tennessee		90.2	88.0	
Arizona		102.4	98.2	
Maryland	86.8	81.8	79.3	82.5
Florida	85.6	82.5	80.1	82.6
California	87.5	89.1	87.1	87.9
Delaware	90.1	90.1	85.5	88.5
New Hampshire	88.1	93.3	86.8	89.0
Washington	86.6	90.9	90.9	89.6
Virginia	95.9	95.0	84.5	91.4
North Carolina	93.5	92.3	89.8	91.8
Missouri	95.2	93.2	92.2	93.5
Kentucky	97.9	93.3	93.1	94.7
Vermont	99.9	98.0	88.1	94.9
Pennsylvania	98.5	93.7	93.8	95.2
Illinois	91.7	97.0	97.3	95.3
West Virginia	95.7	92.3	100.1	96.0
Puerto Rico	101.1	91.9	96.4	96.3
South Carolina	97.2	100.8	93.4	97.1
Maine	93.0	95.4	103.5	97.3
Minnesota	100.8	95.1	96.2	97.5
Indiana	98.2	97.8	96.8	97.6
New Jersey	99.6	96.3	98.0	97.9
Alaska	92.4	96.1	105.9	98.0
North Dakota	98.8	98.3	97.7	98.2
Ohio	99.7	99.6	97.4	98.8
Kansas	99.5	99.7	97.8	99.0
Texas	96.8	101.7	98.5	99.0
Nebraska	100.7	98.9	98.9	99.5
Wisconsin	101.2	100.2	97.5	99.6
Rhode Island	98.3	98.8	102.3	100.0
New Mexico	104.6	101.3	94.7	100.0
Oklahoma	94.9	108.7	97.2	100.1
Alabama	100.0	96.1	103.8	100.2
Idaho	100.5	99.3	100.7	100.2
Colorado	102.3	101.1	97.3	100.3
Arkansas	100.4	108.3	94.4	100.6
District of Columbia	101.1	103.4	99.9	101.5
Michigan	104.3	102.9	99.6	102.2
Oregon	105.9	101.9	102.7	103.4
Hawaii	86.0	99.5	130.2	105.5

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Michigan			86.4	
Washington	76.8	76.3	70.0	74.3
California	74.1	74.7	76.2	75.0
Utah	56.9	86.8	95.1	79.4
Vermont	93.3	88.2	89.2	90.3
Hawaii	91.3	92.3	89.6	91.1
Kentucky	93.2	90.8	92.4	92.1
North Dakota	91.5	92.5	94.8	93.0
Florida	91.6	95.0	92.8	93.2
Indiana	93.2	96.9	93.7	94.5
Arizona	93.9	96.4	96.7	95.7
Puerto Rico	93.0	98.2	99.7	97.1
Nebraska	98.9	96.2	96.2	97.1
Texas	93.1	107.5	96.1	98.8
South Carolina	102.9	98.2	99.2	100.0
Colorado	102.9	98.2	99.2	100.1
Virginia	100.9	101.2	101.7	101.3
Ohio	102.8	101.9	99.6	101.4
Alaska	77.8	101.3	166.5	113.4

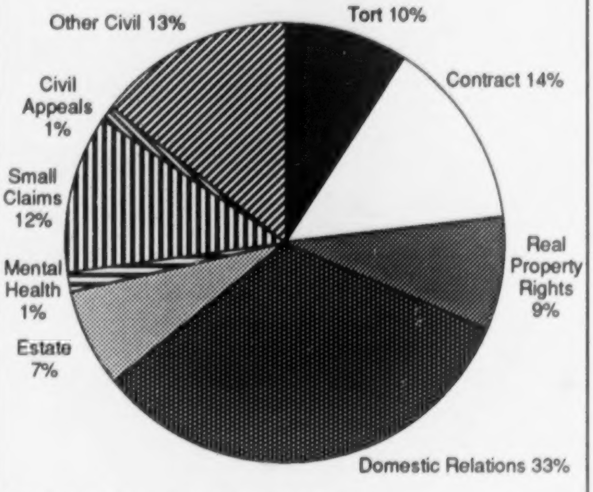
Note: A blank space indicates that a calculation is inappropriate for that year.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

The highest rate was 166.5 percent, recorded in Alaska. In eight states, the clearance rates were between 95 and 100 percent, and in four more states the rate was between 90 and 95. Limited jurisdiction courts in five states—California, Hawaii, Michigan, Vermont, and Washington—reported clearance rates below 90 percent. The court systems of California and Washington also reported the lowest rates in 1988 and 1989. The three-year clearance rates below 100 percent indicate that some states are having continuing problems keeping pace with caseload. In 11 of the 18 limited jurisdiction courts for which a three-year clearance rate can be calculated, the three-year rate exceeds the 1990 clearance rate. This pattern indicates a downward trend in the ability of these 11 courts to handle their caseload volume.

Therefore, the information for both limited and general jurisdiction courts indicates that most courts are failing to keep pace with the flow of new case filings. This condition is expressed in terms of declining clearance rates (the three-year clearance rate exceeds the 1990 rate) and rising caseload levels. These facts suggest the possibility that short-term factors do not underlie the

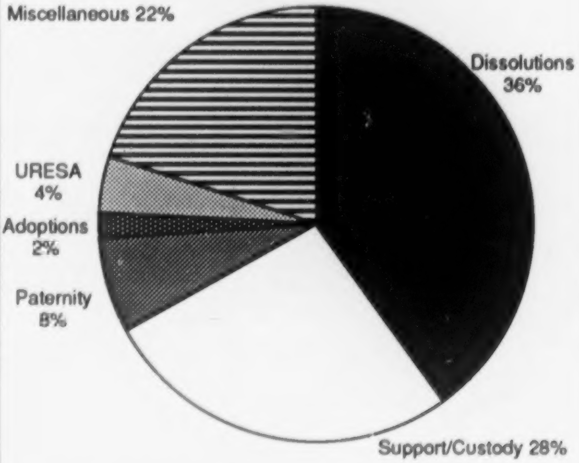
Chart I.7: The Composition of Civil Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



The chart includes data from 24 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Chart I.8: The Composition of Domestic Relations Caseload Filings, 1990



The chart includes data from 31 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

difficulty of courts in keeping pace with the flow of new cases but that difficulties may be rooted in more fundamental factors of resources and performance.

COMPOSITION OF CIVIL CASELOADS. Civil caseloads are a combination of different case types. **Chart I.7** summarizes the composition of civil caseloads in 24 general jurisdiction courts in 1990.[14] Domestic relations cases form the largest caseload category (33 percent), while general civil cases account for an additional 33 percent of the total (10 percent tort; 14 percent contract; 9 percent real property rights). Although only 7 of the 24 general jurisdiction courts used in Chart I.7 have small claims jurisdiction, small claims cases were common enough in those courts to account for 12 percent of the total. Other civil cases, accounting for 13 percent of the total, are composed of all civil cases that cannot be identified as belonging to one of the other major categories.

In the next section, domestic relations caseloads in 1990 are examined in more detail. Following this, trends in tort, contract, and real property rights cases are analyzed.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS IN 1990. The most frequently reported category of civil filings is domestic relations. In 1990 a third of all civil filings in courts of general jurisdiction were domestic relations cases (see Chart I.7). This figure is an underestimate because state courts often consolidate related cases involving the family into one case and reopen cases rather than file new ones when a subsequent order or modification is needed. As shown in **Chart I.8**, the domestic relations caseload comprises six case types: (1) marriage dissolution (divorce), (2) support/custody, (3) Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA), (4) adoption, (5) paternity, and (6) a miscellaneous category. **Text Table I.7** gives the composition of domestic relations caseloads in 1990.[15]

- Divorces represent the highest percent of cases in the domestic relations category (36 percent) in all but 8 states. Differences in statistical reporting practices among the states, however, ac-

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[14] This aggregate picture of civil composition appears to reflect the composition of civil caseloads within each of the 24 individual state courts. That is, the largest percentage of civil cases in most states is domestic relations, followed by general civil, small claims, etc. The coefficient of concordance (W) measures, in this instance, the extent to which the pooled rankings of case types match with the case type rankings within each of the 24 courts. A high (.44) and statistically significant value of W may be interpreted as meaning that the relative percentages of case types making up the aggregate ordering is similar to the civil composition found in the 24 courts.

[15] States included on this table provide (1) complete domestic relations caseload data (as defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*) and (2) relatively complete information on the composition of their domestic relations caseload. States are still included on the table if data for some small types of domestic relations cases are unavailable. (A blank space on the table indicates that while the general jurisdiction court has jurisdiction over the case type, the particular caseload number has been included in the total for a different case category.) All filings are in the states' courts of general jurisdiction except where noted. Data from courts with special family divisions are also included in the table.

TEXT TABLE I.7: The Composition of Domestic Relations Caseload Filings, 1990

State	Dissolution	Support/Custody	URESA	Adoption	Paternity	Miscellaneous*	Total
GENERAL JURISDICTION COURTS							
Alaska	4,244		655	611	582	2,145	8,237
Arizona *	27,303			1,773		7,800	36,876
Arkansas	23,913	12,657	2,037	1,641	7,580	4,171	51,999
Colorado	23,821	639	2,892	1,894	3,831	1,662	34,739
Connecticut	14,369	10,436		NJ	18	651	25,474
District of Columbia	4,229	1,578	1,261	297	2,914	2,221	12,500
Florida	128,502	28,306	25,986			81,615	264,409
Hawaii	6,596		642	822	2,260	7,882	18,202
Idaho	9,504	1,634		909		3,400	15,447
Indiana	48,987	35,696		3,295	13,290		101,268
Kansas	19,046		2,024	1,810	2,259	6,157	31,296
Louisiana *	4,135	3,499	1,665	773	NJ	28	10,100
Maine	375		594	NJ		NJ	969
Michigan	61,278	16,805	4,899	NJ	26,106	5,701	114,789
Minnesota	17,454		13,331	2,034		12,303	45,122
Missouri *	33,211		2,200	2,251	5,212	29,678	72,552
Montana	4,849	272		691		1,140	6,952
Nevada	14,504			691	863	9,838	25,896
New Jersey	42,979	114,045		2,544		36,026	195,594
New York **	64,239	119,759	16,811	7,231	55,164	271,023	534,227
North Dakota	3,089	7,646		331	649	592	12,307
Ohio	69,744	70,905	8,326	5,045	30,496	24,370	208,886
Pennsylvania	48,410	193,736	NJ	4,597		3,404	250,147
Tennessee	54,238		5,452	2,515		821	63,026
Vermont * **	4,642		956	484		3,880	9,962
Washington	32,452	1,430	2,923	2,889	10,625	4,944	55,263
West Virginia	14,582			816			15,398
Wisconsin	22,179	7,482		2,071	16,834	2,523	51,089
FAMILY COURTS							
Delaware ***	4,684	17,558	NJ	211		3,474	25,927
Rhode Island ***	4,900	NJ		454		3,471	8,825
LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS							
North Carolina ****	41,412	32,684	3,044	NJ		822	77,962
TOTAL	853,870	676,767	95,698	48,680	178,683	531,742	2,385,440

* Miscellaneous data for AZ, LA, MO, and VT include unclassified domestic relations cases that do not fit into any of the Court Statistics Project case type definitions or are a combination of two or more case types that cannot be separated

** NY and VT data are combined from general and limited jurisdiction courts

*** RI and DE data are from family courts

**** NC data are from the limited jurisdiction court

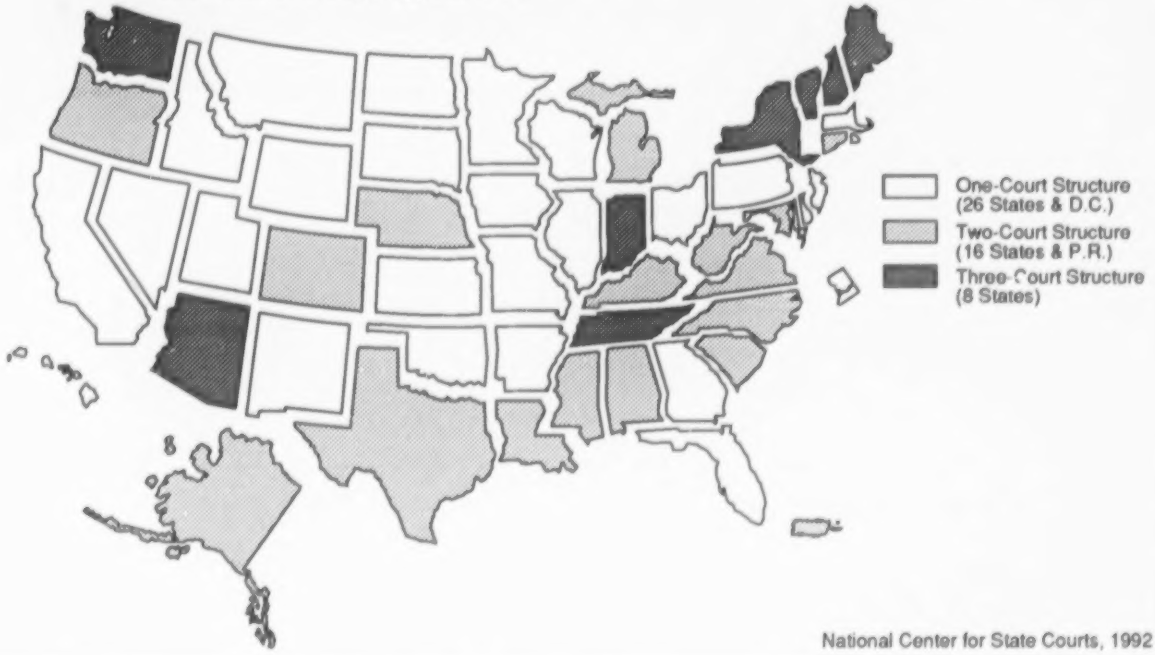
NJ = Court does not have jurisdiction

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

count for some of the variation in the largest reported category. For example, in New Jersey the greater percentage of support/custody cases is due to the inclusion of paternity and URESA cases in the support/custody caseload that other states report separately. North Dakota also combines URESA with the support/custody caseload.

- In 1990 support/custody cases that are reported independently of marriage dissolutions compose the second largest component of the domestic relations caseload (28 percent). Many states do not report support/custody separately if a marriage dissolution is involved, but treat it instead as a proceeding of the divorce.

MAP I.6: Number of Courts Within Each State Having Jurisdiction Over Domestic Relations Case Types, 1990


One-Court Structure (26 States & D.C.)
Two-Court Structure (16 States & P.R.)
Three-Court Structure (8 States)

National Center for State Courts, 1992

- Paternity cases account for 8 percent of the total domestic relations caseload in 1990. However, this figure masks the fact that in states such as West Virginia and North Carolina, paternity is counted as part of the marriage dissolution caseload, while in New Jersey paternity cases are included in the support/custody caseload.

- URESA or interstate child support cases make up 4 percent of the total domestic relations caseload. In 1990 eighteen states shown on Text Table I.7 reported a separate total for URESA cases; in the remaining states, URESA cases were frequently included in the support/custody caseload.

- At 2 percent, adoptions are the smallest part of the domestic relations caseload.

- Finally, the miscellaneous domestic relations category accounts for 22 percent of total domestic relations filings. The miscellaneous domestic relations category includes such cases as domestic violence petitions, termination of parental rights, and name changes.

As with all civil categories, one must exercise caution when comparing domestic relations cases among states. States differ on how they define the civil unit of count and how they count reopened cases. Some states consider reopened cases as new filings, while others do not. Differences also exist in how case types are defined. For example, termination of parental rights may be considered a separate case type in one state court and part of an adoption or child abuse case in others. Most states classify adoptions as part of their domestic relations caseload, while others include these in juvenile filings. Table 9 (Part III, p.119) explains more fully how support/custody cases are counted in each state court, and Figure H (Part V, p. 277) provides the method of counting civil cases (including reopened cases) in each of the state trial courts.

Domestic relations jurisdiction also varies by state.[16] **Map I.6** shows whether jurisdiction over domestic relations case types is held either by one type of court, two types of court, or three types of court. Almost all of the states handle their domestic relations cases in a trial court of general jurisdiction. In Delaware, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, a specialized family court has been created to handle domestic relations matters.

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia use one general jurisdiction or family court to handle domestic relations cases. In another 16 states and in Puerto Rico, two types of courts handle domestic relations: (1)

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[16] For a comprehensive discussion of court structure for family-type cases, see H. Ted Rubin and Geoff Gallas, *Child and Family Legal Proceedings: Court Structure, Statutes and Rules*, in Families in Courts (The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1989).

a general jurisdiction court and (2) either a probate court that handles only adoptions or a limited jurisdiction court that handles domestic violence petitions. In North Carolina and Virginia, most domestic relations cases are heard in a court of limited jurisdiction. North Carolina District Court hears all domestic relations cases except adoptions, which are heard in the superior court. In Virginia, the district court shares jurisdiction with the circuit court over all domestic relations case types other than marriage dissolution, adoption, and paternity. Finally, in eight states, three types of courts handle domestic relations. For example, New York's family court has jurisdiction over support/custody, URESA, paternity, and miscellaneous domestic relations as well as some adoptions; the surrogates' court has concurrent adoption jurisdiction; and New York's general jurisdiction court—the supreme court—handles marriage dissolutions.

Trends in Civil Filings, 1984-90

This section switches from how civil caseloads differ among states to how civil caseloads in individual states are changing over time. Specifically, 1984-90 trends in tort, contract, and real property rights cases are examined. This trend analysis makes use of index numbers to measure changes over time against a common standard.

Filings in 1984 are set equal to 100 and every subsequent year is measured relative to that benchmark. In addition, Text Table I.5 (Trends in Total Civil Filings) provides a backdrop against which to assess the growth of high visibility general civil caseloads. Tort, contract, and real property rights cases are examined because of their visibility and because these cases tend to consume more court resources than other civil case categories and to speak directly to the concerns and questions court managers, legislators, and the public have about the work of the state courts.[17]

TORTS. Torts are allegations of injury or wrong committed either against a person or against a person's property by a party or parties who either failed to do something that they were obligated to do or did something that they were obligated not to do. Comparable tort filing data can be obtained from 20 general jurisdiction courts for the 1984 to 1990 period. Six of the 10 most populous states are included. The actual numbers of tort filings per year are detailed in Table 16, Part III. **Text Table I.8** summarizes that information by using index numbers to express the change in tort filings experienced by each court.[18]

The observed consistency in Text Table I.8 suggests a national pattern in tort litigation. Specifically, there is a pattern to the timing of upward and downward fluctuations. Filing rates tended to increase in 1985 and again in 1986. Between 1984 and 1985, 14 of 20 states registered increases in the tort filings in their general jurisdiction trial court. Between 1985 and 1986, 17 of 20 states registered an increase. Tort filings have continued to increase, but at a substantially slower pace. Growth in tort filings between 1986 and 1989 was essentially flat, with as many states experiencing year-to-year decreases as increases. Tort filings in 1990 increased over the levels reached in 1989 (14 increases, 5 decreases, and 1 unchanged), with several states showing large percentage increases (Arizona, Hawaii, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, and Utah). Concern over the possible resumption of rapid growth in tort litigation is alleviated by noting that in only 8 of the 20 states in Text Table I.8 is the 1990 index number at its highest point in the seven-year trend.

Fluctuations in tort filings are clearly seen when the aggregate numbers of tort filings for the 20 jurisdictions are examined, as shown in **Chart I.9** (summing the data found in Table 16, Part III (p. 175)) for the 20 states in Text Table I.8. For those states, tort filings overall increased by 29 percent during the past seven years. Most of this growth occurred between 1984 and 1986 (23.4 percent). There was little change between 1986 and 1989 (approximate increase of 1.5 percent). Growth resumed, however, in 1990, with just over a 3 percent increase between 1989 and 1990. There is little evidence that tort litigation is growing more rapidly than civil cases generally. Recall that the total number of civil cases grew by over 5 percent between 1989 and 1990.

Comparing the 1990 tort index numbers with the 1990 total civil index numbers for each state shows that changes in tort filings often correspond to changes evident in total civil filings. For example, the downward trend in tort filings that has occurred since 1986 in Alaska is mirrored by a similar decline in total civil filings. The tort filing levels in Idaho and Maine are also well below the 1984 level, while the growth in total civil filings registered in these two states is among the flattest in the country. The largest increases in tort filings (in excess of 50 percent between 1984 and 1990) occurred in Arizona, Florida, Michigan, and Ohio. These increases in tort filings reflect the pattern of large increases in total civil filings that is also occurring in these four states. An obvious exception is New York, where tort filings are down 17 percent from the 1984 level, yet total civil filings are up 73 percent.

While, on average, there is a tendency for tort filing levels to follow the same path as total civil filings, changes in tort reform legislation will affect short-term tort filing

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[17] Caseload data are taken from the *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series, 1984 to 1990. Only states that reported statistics in comparable terms over the full seven-year time span are included. Thus, states that have upgraded their data collection capabilities recently may have relevant statistics in the 1990 report but are still excluded from the trend analysis. A complete list of all tort data received by the Court Statistics Project during the period 1984 to 1990, regardless of time period, is presented in Table 16 (Part III, p.175).

[18] Tort filings can be standardized using a variety of rates, including rates per 100,000 households, rates per 100,000 firms, or rates per 100,000 economic transactions in a state. The rate selected should reflect the purpose of the analysis. In this report, the issue is simply whether filings are increasing more or less rapidly than the population. Therefore, the actual numbers of case filings are used and the overall 1984-90 population change is included in the tables for readers interested in whether caseload growth is outstripping population growth.

TEXT TABLE I.8: Trends in Tort Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1984-90

State	Tort Index 1984	Tort Index 1985	Tort Index 1986	Tort Index 1987	Tort Index 1988	Tort Index 1989	Tort Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Alaska	100	161	180	128	72	65	63	110
Arizona	100	117	130	134	223	137	168	120
California	100	115	134	142	136	136	126	116
Colorado	100	108	146	87	107	129	140	104
Florida	100	111	127	125	128	143	152	118
Hawaii	100	104	109	111	108	111	128	107
Idaho	100	116	122	102	84	85	82	101
Kansas	100	101	106	109	114	112	99	102
Maine	100	99	98	86	85	94	90	106
Maryland	100	93	114	120	131	132	138	110
Michigan	100	98	141	128	134	141	167	102
Montana	100	114	112	109	94	98	101	97
New Jersey	100	101	109	112	135	139	142	103
New York	100	94	85	90	81	79	83	101
North Dakota	100	93	102	100	100	109	135	93
Ohio	100	115	127	133	129	131	156	101
Puerto Rico	100	111	115	121	103	141	154	101
Texas	100	110	112	119	107	107	116	106
Utah	100	87	176	93	98	86	114	104
Washington	100	108	217	89	97	113	113	112

Source: Table 16, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

levels in clear ways. A second major wave of contemporary tort reform legislation created incentives that led the pool of potential tort cases either to be precipitously emptied or to accumulate in anticipation of how statutory changes might affect plaintiffs.[19]

Recent trends in tort filings are dominated by sharp increases in the mid-1980s that were subsequently reversed either immediately or through a series of decreases. Whatever factors propelled the sharp increases, they appear to have diminished in strength by the end of the decade. The most plausible explanations for the trends in many states are specific tort reform initiatives that made it advantageous for litigants to file a lawsuit either before or after a particular date. Recent legislative changes in Alaska and Arizona provide examples of this point.[20]

Tort reform legislation during 1986 and 1987 and a ballot initiative in 1988 revised several aspects of Alaska's civil law. In 1986 a $500,000 ceiling on noneconomic damages in personal injury cases was established.[21] In addition, the Alaska legislature in 1987 abolished pure joint and several liability for joint tortfeasors (defendants).[22] A plaintiff could no longer recover all of the damages sought from one tortfeasor, with damages assessed instead so that each defendant is responsible for a share of the damages depending on their relative negligence. The substantial rise in tort filings during 1985 and 1986 stems from a rush by plaintiffs to file before the new legislation took effect, allowing their cases to be decided under the old law. The sharp declines recorded each year since 1986, and the parallel trend at the general and limited jurisdiction level, support this reasoning. That tort filings in 1990 stand at 63 percent of the level in 1984 suggests, but does not prove definitively, that the legislation may have achieved its purpose. The ballot initiative passed by the voters in November 1988 abolished the doctrine of joint and several liability, effective March 5, 1989.

Arizona offers another example of the potential impact of change in filing incentives brought about by changes in the legal framework. In 1987 the Arizona legislature abolished joint and several liability for most torts with the statute taking effect on January 1, 1988.[23]

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[19] An earlier wave of legislation in the late 1970s implemented significant reforms, notably to tort law governing malpractice.

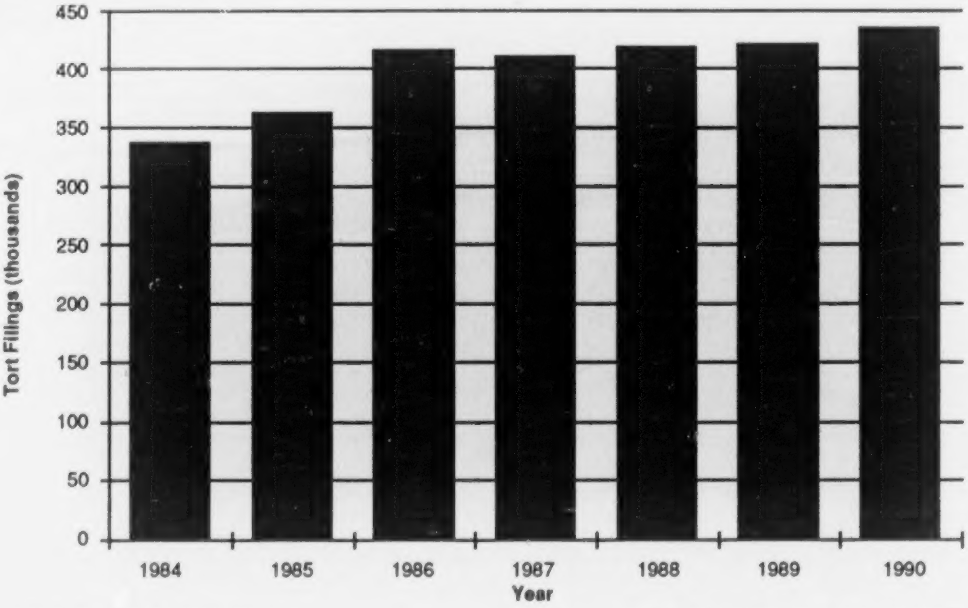
[20] An analysis of the effect of tort reform legislation on changes in tort caseloads in Michigan, New Jersey, Utah, and Washington is presented in State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1989, p. 42-44 (1991)

[21] Section 09.17.101 of the Alaska Code of Civil Procedure.

[22] Chapter 16 of the Alaska Code of Civil Procedure was repealed in 1987.

[23] Section 12-2506 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

CHART I.9: Tort Filings, 1984-90



The chart includes data from 20 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

The impact was dramatic. "Of the 17,128 tort cases pending in Maricopa County as of December 30, 1987, 8,223 were filed in that very month, precisely to take advantage of the old doctrine. The court administrator's office reports that the average number of new tort filings per month in Maricopa County is 615."[24] This change undoubtedly underlies the 67 percent increase in the tort filings between 1987 and 1988.[25] The long-term impact is less certain, however, given the substantial decrease between 1988 and 1989 that brought filing levels back to where they were in 1987 and the subsequent increase of 31 percent between 1989 and 1990.

Other fluctuations in tort filing levels may reflect changes to the maximum dollar amount jurisdiction for cases filed in courts of limited jurisdiction or for small claims procedures. As states raise the maximum dollar amounts that can be contested in those forums, alternatives emerge to filing tort cases in general jurisdiction courts. This adds weight to the significance of the increases observed in tort filings because case filings in general jurisdiction courts, perhaps, represent a declining share of total claims for tort damages.

To summarize, tort filings nationwide are increasing at more modest rates than earlier in the decade. This trend is not entirely uniform and, in fact, an examination of selected states reveals substantial variability. Over the last seven years, the courts examined include only one state (New Jersey) with a consistent upward trend and six additional states with fluctuating upward trends. Yet, the national trend is upward because only five states reached a peak in the midst of this period and have declined since. Only Maine shows a fairly consistent downward trend. The remaining seven states show a good deal of alternating increases and decreases. Hence, it appears that factors operating at a national or, perhaps, regional level affect the extent and direction of change in tort filing rates. Despite the link between extreme fluctuations in some states and specific legislative initiatives, there is evidence of a modest increase in tort filings.

Torts have become the primary focus of the debate on whether the level of litigation in this country is rising to a degree that is detrimental to businesses and a challenge to judges and court managers. However, extending consideration to contract and real property rights cases permits comment on how representative tort cases are of civil caseload trends and puts what is occurring in tort litigation into perspective.

CONTRACT AND REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS FILINGS. Contracts form a major category for classifying civil cases. Contract cases are disputes over a promissory agreement between two or more parties (see the entry in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*). Complete and comparable data on contract cases are

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[24] Elliot Talenfeld, *Instructing the Jury as to the Effect of Joint and Several Liability: Time for the Court to Address the Issue on the Merits*, 20 Ariz. St. L.J. 925 (1988).

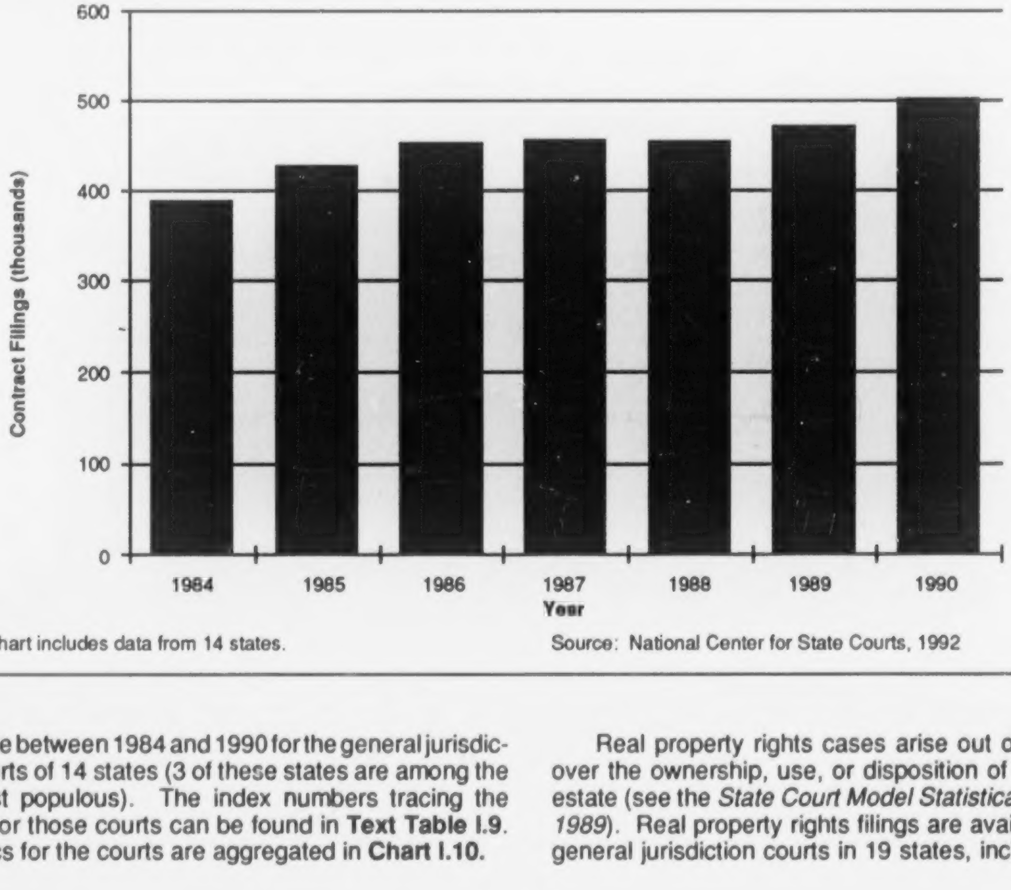
[25] Although the new statute took effect on January 1, 1988, its impact was felt in the 1988 filing rates because Arizona compiles caseload statistics on the basis of a July 1-June 30 reporting period.

TEXT TABLE I.9: Trends in Contract Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1984-90

State	Contract Index 1984	Contract Index 1985	Contract Index 1986	Contract Index 1987	Contract Index 1988	Contract Index 1989	Contract Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Arizona	100	109	128	127	128	128	131	120
Colorado	100	99	120	124	113	109	105	104
Florida	100	122	144	148	155	183	186	118
Hawaii	100	86	85	79	84	80	84	107
Kansas	100	110	123	125	127	137	152	102
Maine	100	105	87	98	127	136	140	106
Maryland	100	95	115	133	143	188	299	110
Montana	100	108	114	95	71	62	64	97
New Jersey	100	110	113	113	117	121	132	103
North Dakota	100	96	97	88	90	71	65	93
Puerto Rico	100	102	114	114	121	154	185	101
Texas	100	113	109	111	92	74	61	106
Utah	100	85	15	4	7	74	122	104
Washington	100	108	112	103	101	98	102	112

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

CHART I.10: Contract Filings, 1984-90



The chart includes data from 14 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

available between 1984 and 1990 for the general jurisdiction courts of 14 states (3 of these states are among the 10 most populous). The index numbers tracing the trends for those courts can be found in **Text Table I.9**. Statistics for the courts are aggregated in **Chart I.10**.

Real property rights cases arise out of contention over the ownership, use, or disposition of land or real estate (see the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*). Real property rights filings are available for the general jurisdiction courts in 19 states, including those

TEXT TABLE I.10: Trends in Real Property Rights Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1984-90

State	Real Prop Index 1984	Real Prop Index 1985	Real Prop Index 1986	Real Prop Index 1987	Real Prop Index 1988	Real Prop Index 1989	Real Prop Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Arizona	100	171	224	250	236	273	366	120
California	100	116	183	133	179	190	171	116
Colorado	100	133	177	205	238	211	155	104
Connecticut	100	107	112	155	172	130	202	10
Delaware	100	102	100	116	126	119	128	109
District of Columbia	100	98	95	90	86	78	75	97
Florida	100	126	156	161	177	200	221	118
Hawaii	100	103	90	79	87	109	140	107
Illinois	100	130	126	119	141	112	110	99
Kansas	100	110	130	139	138	140	142	102
Maryland	100	87	89	72	63	104	102	110
Massachusetts	100	104	113	118	139	143	163	104
Montana	100	123	129	143	115	119	97	97
New Jersey	100	105	107	109	118	128	135	103
North Dakota	100	122	140	155	132	116	101	93
Puerto Rico	100	97	107	91	81	81	77	101
Texas	100	92	91	88	88	89	68	106
Utah	100	82	93	90	92	85	72	104
Washington	100	119	119	134	147	154	151	112

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

from 5 of the 10 most populous states. The index numbers for individual courts can be found in **Text Table I.10** and the aggregate trend in **Chart I.11**.

The patterns identified for tort filing rates also tend to apply to contract and real property rights cases over the 1984-90 period. During those seven years, filings for all three case types increased in most states. In aggregate, tort filings increased by 29 percent, contract filings by 29 percent, and real property rights by 32 percent between 1984 and 1990.

These upward trends characterize the experience of most of the individual states. At the general jurisdiction court level, 10 of 14 states reported increases in contract filings, and 14 of 19 states reported increases in real property rights filings. This compares to increased tort filings found in 15 of 20 states. The trends for contract and real property rights cases, however, tend to be smoother than those for tort cases and clearer in direction. For example, Text Table I.9 shows that 4 of the 14 states (Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico) had consistent increases in contract cases from 1984 to 1990, and another four (Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, and Texas) had fairly consistent decreases. The trend in real property rights (Text Table I.10) reveals that 3 states had consistent increases, another 3 states showed increases in all but one year, and 4 had substantial decreases. In addition, the most noticeable increases in civil case filings are found in contract and real property rights cases. Contract cases in Maryland grew by 199 percent between 1984 and 1990, by 86 percent in Florida, and 85 percent in Puerto Rico. Real property rights filings more than tripled in Arizona and doubled in Connecticut and Florida over the seven years.

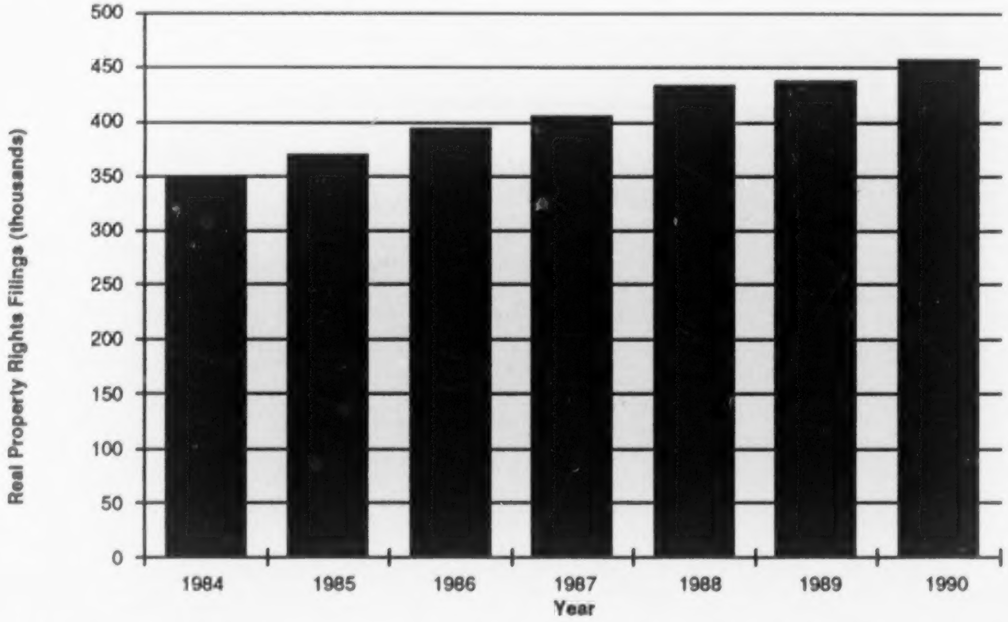
Overall, the evidence presented here indicates that tort filings are not increasing at a faster rate than other major categories of civil filings. In fact, only in the 1985 to 1986 period did the aggregate growth in torts exceed the growth in both contract and real property rights filings. No state recorded a continual, yearly rise in tort filings relative to contract and real property rights cases during the 1984-90 period.

There are sufficient differences between tort, contract, and real property rights case filing patterns to suggest that the factors promoting the increase or the decrease of tort litigation in states are not having parallel effects on contract and real property rights litigation. In fact, only one state, New Jersey, had a consistent increase in tort, contract, and real property rights cases from 1984 to 1990. For all states, the most dramatic increases in the civil caseload tended to be for real property rights cases or contract cases, not torts.

Criminal Filings in 1990

States reported 1[illegible]074,146 new criminal case filings in 1990, with 29 percent in courts of general jurisdiction and 71 percent in courts of limited jurisdiction. The 1990 total was a 4 percent increase above the figure recorded in 1989. A method similar to that used with civil caseloads

CHART I.11: Real Property Rights Filings, 1984-90



The chart includes data from 19 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

is used to examine criminal caseloads. The issues covered in this section include:

- The volume of criminal cases in general and limited jurisdiction courts in 1990. What is the degree of variation across the states? Are criminal filings closely related to the size of the state's population? Or do other factors appear to affect criminal filing levels?

- Clearance rates for criminal cases. Are courts keeping up with new filings?

- The composition of criminal caseloads. What is the relative size of felony and misdemeanor cases? Are their shares of the caseload similar across states?

- Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases in limited jurisdiction courts. How large are these caseloads? Are these two case types, adjusted for population, similar across states?

- Trends in felony filings. How fast are felony caseloads increasing in size? Are all states experiencing substantial growth in filing levels?

In **Text Table I.11**, the 45 states providing relatively complete data from general and limited jurisdiction courts are ranked according to the number of total criminal filings in 1990.[26] Additionally, the table shows the ranking of each state according to the size of its population. Detailed information on the extent to which states report data conforming to the recommended definitions, the method of counting criminal cases, and the point at which a filing is counted as a case is provided in Table 10 (Part III, p. 128). The states that provide the Court Statistics Project with fully complete and comparable criminal data are shown in **Map I.7**.

The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* defines a criminal case as one in which a defendant is charged with the violation of a state law.[27] As seen in Text Table I.11, total criminal caseloads range widely from 15,877 filings in Wyoming to 1,790,428 filings in Texas. As with civil cases, there is a broad correspondence between total criminal filings and state population.

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[26] A state is excluded from the table only if the state's total criminal caseload is less than 75 percent complete. Actual state population figures for 1984 to 1990 are provided in Appendix D.

[27] Subcategories of criminal cases include felonies, misdemeanors, driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI), and appeals of trial court cases. Felonies that can be tried to completion in the court in which they are filed are distinguished from felony cases that must be bound over for trial to another court. Limited jurisdiction courts in most states hold preliminary hearings for felony cases and in 26 states can dismiss a felony case; however, such courts can sentence convicted felons in only six states (Alabama, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, and South Carolina). Filings of felony cases in limited jurisdiction courts for preliminary hearings are not added to the state criminal caseload if the result is a defendant being bound over for trial in another court. Such cases are thus only counted once, as a filing in the court of general jurisdiction.

TEXT TABLE I.11: Total Criminal Filings in General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990

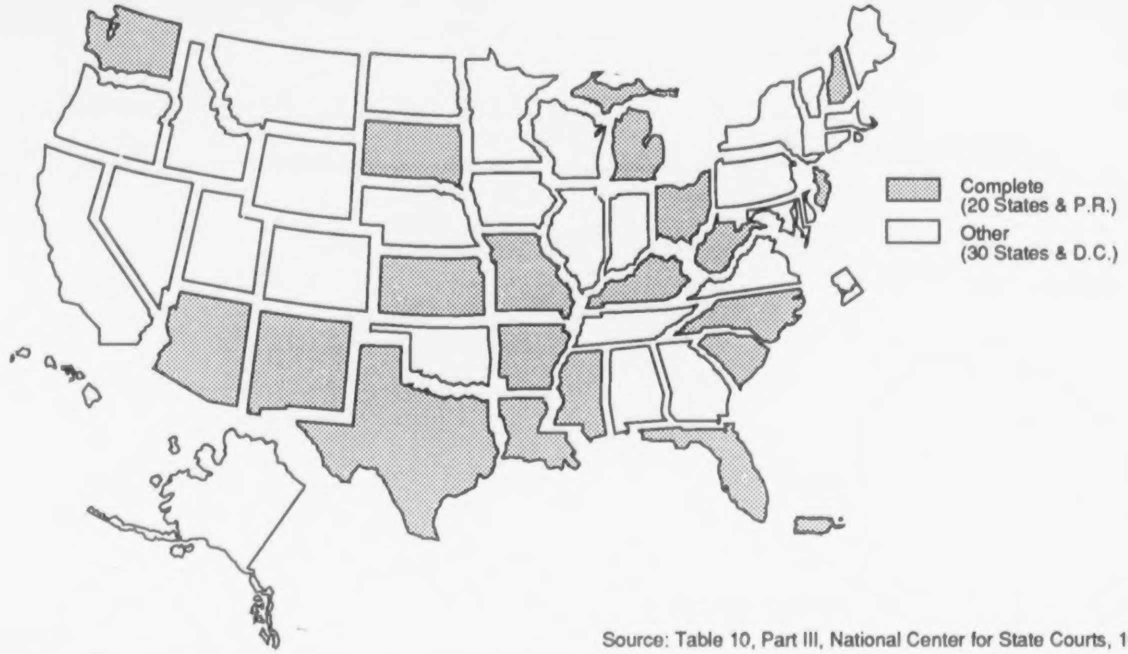
State	Total Criminal Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Criminal Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Total Criminal Filings	Population Ranking
Wyoming	1,503	14,374	15,877	52
North Dakota	1,775	18,248	20,023	48
Vermont	22,087	NJ	22,087	50
Alaska	2,718	27,209	29,927	51
South Dakota	36,128	NC	36,128	46
District of Columbia	40,310	NC	40,310	49
Hawaii	7,917	39,030	46,947	42
Kansas	40,376	12,415	52,791	33
Rhode Island	6,671	46,728	53,399	44
New Hampshire	12,756	42,351	55,107	41
Iowa	60,942	NC	60,942	31
Idaho	67,520	NC	67,520	43
New Mexico	11,502	63,439	74,941	38
Oklahoma	75,352	NJ	75,352	29
Puerto Rico	35,539	47,069	82,608	27
Nebraska	6,524	81,562	88,086	37
Wisconsin	89,648	NA	89,648	16
Utah	4,608	91,952	96,560	36
Colorado	21,054	81,153	102,207	26
Delaware	6,833	99,289	106,122	47
West Virginia	6,820	128,287	135,107	35
Missouri	139,971	NJ	139,971	15
Oregon	28,523	117,811	146,334	30
Connecticut	176,301	NJ	176,301	28
Minnesota	178,504	NC	178,504	20
Kentucky	15,111	168,401	183,512	23
Indiana	112,555	131,480	244,035	14
Washington	28,047	231,218	259,265	18
Maryland	60,229	213,306	273,535	19
Louisiana	155,490	148,376	303,866	21
Alabama	43,945	265,410	309,355	22
Arizona	29,073	283,055	312,128	24
Michigan	45,616	287,771	333,387	8
South Carolina	101,461	252,668	354,129	25
Massachusetts	391,658	NC	391,658	13
Illinois	447,565	NC	447,565	6
New Jersey	61,098	404,847	465,945	9
New York	79,322	481,397	560,719	2
Ohio	55,949	507,441	563,390	7
Virginia	97,266	476,372	573,638	12
Florida	193,740	439,131	632,871	4
North Carolina	108,784	544,588	653,372	10
Pennsylvania	139,699	573,273	712,972	5
California	154,482	1,028,634	1,183,116	1
Texas	168,269	1,622,159	1,790,428	3

NA = Data are not available
NC = There is no court of limited jurisdiction
NJ = Court does not have criminal jurisdiction

Source: Table 10, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

- Eight states account for more than 50 percent of all criminal filings.
- Six of the states accounting for the majority of criminal filings are among the eight most populous states.

MAP I.7: States with Complete Criminal Filing Data in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



Source: Table 10, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

Chart I.12 is a graphic display of the relationship between population and total criminal filings. Each square represents the pairing of a state's population and its criminal caseload. For example, the two squares furthest to the right represent Texas (nearly 1.8 million criminal cases and a population of almost 17 million) and California (1.2 million criminal cases and a state population of over 29 million). The closer all the squares lie to the line drawn through the chart, the stronger is the relationship between criminal filings and population. There is obviously a positive correlation, although it is not quite as strong as it is with civil caseloads.[28] It is likely that differences in (1) the methods used by states to count criminal cases, (2) the procedures used by states to decide which cases are to be prosecuted, and (3) differences in the underlying crime rate will influence criminal filing rates. By adjusting for population, it is possible to look more closely at other factors that affect criminal caseloads.

CRIMINAL FILINGS PER 100,000 POPULATION. Chart I.13 displays the total criminal filings per 100,000 adult population.[29] Rates per 100,000 population show considerable variation in 1990: ranging from a low of 1,833 reported by Wisconsin to a high of 15,930 reported by Delaware.

- Criminal filing rates tend to be dispersed around the median, which is represented by South Dakota (5,191). The relationship between population and criminal filing rates is looser than it is for civil cases.

Two patterns are evident in criminal filings per 100,000 population. First, state criminal filing rates are consistent over time, particularly for those states appearing at either end of the range. The same two states have defined the lower (Wisconsin) and upper (Delaware) bounds of the range since 1986. In 1990 six jurisdictions reported

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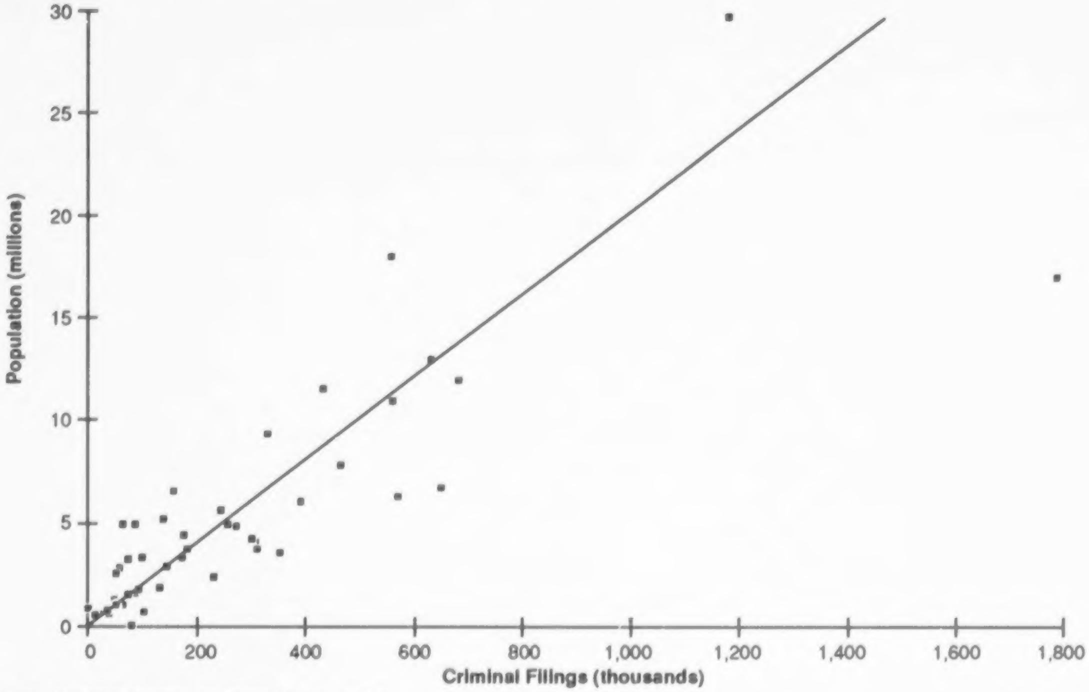
[28] There is a positive Pearson correlation coefficient of .84 between state population and total criminal filings; the correlation between state population and total civil filings was .90. This means that if you know a state's population it is possible to predict with considerable accuracy how many cases are being filed in its courts.

[29] Included in the graph are states that (1) report data from all general jurisdiction courts with relevant subject matter jurisdiction and (2) report data that is at least 75 percent complete at the limited jurisdiction court level. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia report data from all courts with relevant subject matter jurisdiction. Reference to the footnotes to the statistics in Table 10, Part III (p. 128), indicates why the remaining states were excluded and the extent to which the caseload for a state at either the general or limited jurisdiction level is incomplete or overinclusive.

CHART I.12: Total Criminal Filings by Population, 1990



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

distinctively low rates of criminal filings: Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Missouri, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin. The same jurisdictions also had the lowest filing rates in 1988 and 1989. At the other end of the range, five states that reported more than 8,000 filings per 100,000 population, Delaware, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Arizona, have occupied the high end of the chart since 1987.

Second, while there may be consistency over time in the ranking of states on Chart I.13, in any given year there tends to be a wide range in filing rates and a dispersion around the median that contrasts with the consistency found for state civil filing rates. Variation among the states in crime rates, police arrest rates, and prosecutorial practices explain part of the variation in filings per 100,000 population. In addition, differences in how and when criminal cases are counted also affect the filing rates.[30]

The point at which a criminal case is counted as a filing varies among states, and sometimes between trial courts within a state.

- Differences in the point at which a criminal case is counted as a filing will affect the ranks of individual states on Chart I.13.

- States vary in how criminal cases are counted.

Some states count filings at an early point, typically the filing of a complaint, information, or indictment. On the other hand, some states only count a case as filed when the defendant enters a plea, thus reducing their filing counts due to cases that are dismissed prior to a plea being entered. The number of defendants per case and the number of charges per charging document may also affect the number of cases reported as filed during a year.

Units of count and points of filing are important factors to bear in mind when reviewing Chart I.13. Wisconsin, the state with the lowest filing rate, counts filings at the defendant's first appearance before the court, a point later than the filing of the information or indictment, which is the point used by most states. Hawaii (with a relatively low filing rate in the district court) and Kansas (with the second lowest filing rate) are the only other states that follow the Wisconsin practice. Some states count codefendants charged with a crime as a single case. That practice will understate the filing rate relative to states that base their counts on every defendant. The position of Missouri, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, and Wyoming among the states with the lowest filing rates may reflect their use of a unit of count that groups defendants into a single case for statistical reporting purposes.

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[30] The ranking of states on Chart I.13 (particularly at either extreme) is influenced by the unit of count and the point at which the count is taken in compiling court statistics. Figure D, Part V (p. 257), describes and Table 10, Part III (p. 128), summarizes the practice in each court with criminal jurisdiction.

By contrast, states with the highest filing rates tend to count each charge against each defendant as a separate filing (e.g., Arizona, Delaware (in its courts of limited jurisdiction excluding the family court), Texas, and Virginia). Other states with high filing rates are those where the case count is determined by the prosecutor (e.g., North Carolina). For example, comparing the states with the top ten largest absolute criminal caseloads in Text Table I.11 with the states with the ten largest population adjusted caseloads shows only three states common to both groups: Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia. These three states exhibit the dual impact that large populations and the use of a case-counting method that enlarges estimates has on the reported total of criminal filings.

Estimating the impact of the unit of count on state filing rates is difficult when the units of count are different at the general jurisdiction level than they are at the limited jurisdiction level. The absence of a standard unit of count within a state not only creates more difficulties for intrastate comparisons, but also complicates any interpretation of the filing rates shown in Chart I.13. For while one may know that several states use the same case-counting practices in their general jurisdiction courts, the same unit of count is not necessarily used in the courts of limited jurisdiction. Furthermore, the types of criminal cases handled in limited jurisdiction courts are often quite different from the types of cases handled in general jurisdiction courts. Therefore, to increase comparability, the remaining discussion of criminal caseloads will look separately at general and limited jurisdiction courts.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR CRIMINAL CASES. Large and rapidly increasing criminal caseloads present a number of challenges to state court systems. At the forefront is the fact that criminal cases consume a disproportionately large amount of court resources. Constitutional requirements covering the right to counsel in felony and misdemeanor cases ensure that attorneys, judges, and other court personnel will be involved at all critical stages in the processing of criminal cases. Additionally, criminal cases must often be disposed under tighter time standards than other types of cases. Finally, courts are required by constitution, statutes, rules of procedure, and other policies to give priority to criminal cases, regardless of whether the case is viewed as relatively minor or very severe. Because courts must deal with criminal cases expeditiously, the processing of other types of cases may be slowed. Hence, the success of states in disposing of criminal cases is an important indicator of the overall sufficiency of court resources and an important factor influencing not only the pace of criminal litigation but the pace of civil litigation as well.

Criminal case clearance rates are shown in **Text Table I.12** for the general jurisdiction courts of 43 states.

- Only 9 of the 43 general jurisdiction court systems reported criminal clearance rates greater than 100 percent.[31]

Six states had clearance rates of 90 percent or less, with Tennessee recording the lowest at 81.9 percent. Thus, during 1990, only about one state in five managed to keep pace with the flow of new case filings, the remainder adding to the inventory of cases pending before their general jurisdiction trial courts. However, on the whole, states' clearance rates were up in 1990 compared to 1988 and 1989.

Three-year clearance rates are below 100 percent in all but four states. The news is not altogether bad, however, because the clearance rates in 1990 exceed the three-year clearance rate in 25 of 38 states.[32] This implies that clearance rates in 1990 tended to be above the average clearance rates based on the period from 1988 to 1990.

The two states with the lowest three-year clearance rates (Hawaii and South Carolina) had the largest percentage of increases in criminal filings during the past seven years. However, in contrast to the pattern observed for civil clearance rates, those states with the lowest three-year rates are not the states with the highest absolute number of filings in 1990 or the states with the highest population adjusted rates in 1990. Also, of the seven states on Text Table I.12 where the number of criminal case filings increased by more than 10 percent between 1989 and 1990 (California, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Puerto Rico), only one state (Hawaii) has a three-year clearance rate of less than 90 percent.

Limited jurisdiction courts, which in most states hear and decide the bulk of criminal caseloads (Table 10, Part III, p. 128), were no more successful than general jurisdiction courts in coping with the flow of new cases. The clearance rate exceeded 100 percent in only 3 of the 19 states included in Text Table I.12. Eight states were in the 95 to 100 percent range and three in the 90 to 95 percent range. Five of the 19 states reported limited jurisdiction court clearance rates of less than 90 percent. Again, this is a slight improvement over the situation in 1989.

Low clearance rates are, perhaps, to be expected in a year that saw criminal case filings continuing to rise at

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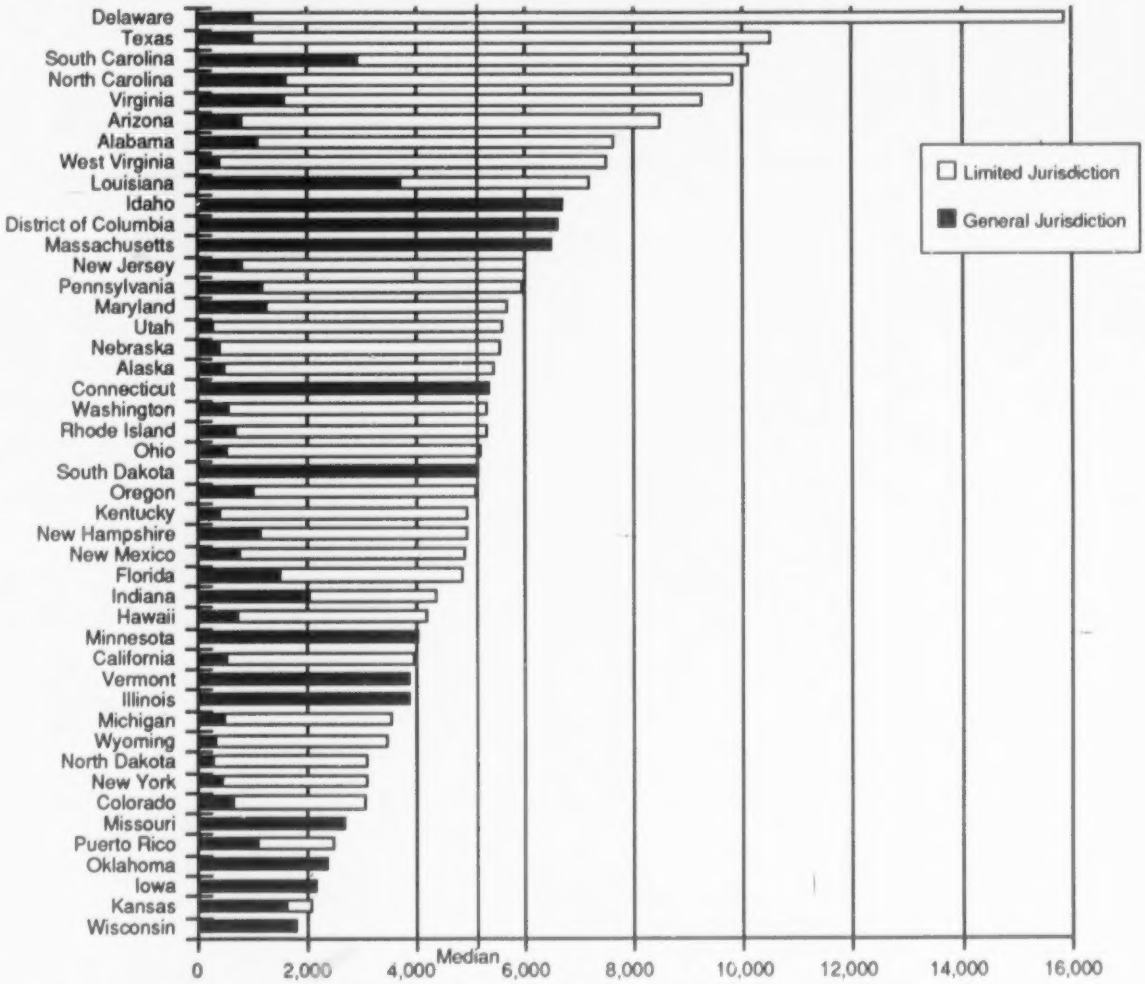
[31] Complete information relevant to the calculation of criminal case clearance rates in general and limited jurisdiction courts is displayed in Table 10, Part III.

[32] Criminal clearance rates will also be affected by how a particular court handles bench warrants for failure to appear (FTA). A recent study showed that an average of 20 percent of all felony cases had at least one. John Goerdt et al., Examining Court Delay 70 (National Center for State Courts 1989). Courts differ in how they handle FTAs. Some enter an administrative dismissal after 60 to 180 days, while others keep them on the list of pending cases.

CHART I.13: Criminal Case Filings per 100,000 Adult Population in State Trial Courts, 1990



The following states are not included: AR, GA, ME, MS, MT, NV, TN.

Source: Table 10, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

a rapid rate. Still, the pool of pending cases awaiting adjudication continues to rise and that in itself points to problems that merit concern and corrective action. As noted, criminal cases are subject to more stringent time standards for case processing than are civil cases. Directing resources to the backlog of criminal cases is one solution, but it may simply displace the problem by imposing further delay on civil litigants who want and are entitled to court adjudication of their disputes.

COMPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASELOADS. Criminal cases are composed of two main case types: (1) felonies and (2) misdemeanors. Felonies are serious criminal offenses. Typically, a felony is an offense for which the minimum prison sentence is one year or more.[33] States use different criteria when distinguishing a felony from other offenses, but felony case filings always include the most serious offenses and exclude minor offenses. Misdemeanors are less serious criminal offenses that are usually punishable by a fine, a short period of incarceration, or both.

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[33] Wayne Logan, Lindsay Stellwagen, and Patrick Langan, Felony Sentencing Law of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, 1986 (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (NCJ-105066 1988).

TEXT TABLE I.12: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases, 1988-90

General Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Tennessee		83.2	81.9	
Arkansas			91.5	
Arizona		91.8	92.4	
New Hampshire		97.2	93.5	
Texas			95.7	
Hawaii	53.4	73.9	82.7	71.7
South Carolina	91.3	72.5	90.3	83.9
Washington	85.1	88.4	91.2	88.3
New Jersey	89.5	86.7	89.2	88.4
Missouri	89.2	90.7	86.7	88.8
Indiana	95.5	87.9	86.7	89.5
Maryland	89.8	86.4	93.1	89.8
Oklahoma	89.4	93.0	89.5	90.6
Rhode Island	81.0	99.7	93.6	91.2
Wisconsin	93.0	89.8	94.6	92.5
Maine	91.2	94.1	92.5	92.7
Puerto Rico	96.0	90.3	94.4	93.6
Alabama	91.9	91.4	97.1	93.7
North Carolina	95.7	94.1	91.8	93.7
Kentucky	99.2	86.7	96.2	93.8
California	96.0	93.8	92.8	94.1
Alaska	94.7	87.4	100.6	94.2
New Mexico	95.0	98.3	93.4	95.5
Nebraska	88.8	100.2	97.1	95.6
Oregon	93.6	97.1	96.2	95.6
Minnesota	97.2	98.1	92.1	95.8
Iowa	94.5	94.4	98.4	95.9
Virginia	95.5	93.7	98.8	96.1
Idaho	96.1	93.9	98.6	96.3
New York	96.2	95.2	97.9	96.4
Pennsylvania	96.6	93.0	100.3	96.7
North Dakota	100.5	96.8	95.3	97.4
Vermont	99.9	93.2	101.0	98.0
Ohio	97.7	99.6	98.4	98.6
District of Columbia	97.4	99.2	99.4	98.6
Michigan	99.7	97.4	99.8	98.9
Delaware	104.3	95.2	99.2	99.2
Wyoming	96.4	99.6	101.9	99.3
Colorado	97.8	97.7	102.5	99.4
West Virginia	106.6	99.6	100.9	102.4
Kansas	106.0	105.4	104.6	105.3
Illinois	97.2	122.9	114.9	110.4
Montana	110.4	123.5	125.5	120.1

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Michigan			95.1	
Maryland		93.3	103.8	
Louisiana	84.7	80.4	76.2	80.2
California	82.4	81.4	83.8	82.6
Florida	86.3	83.2	83.5	84.3
Oregon	91.9	89.7	91.3	91.0
Rhode Island	88.0	95.6	90.9	91.6
Kentucky	94.7	89.2	91.2	91.6
Maine	88.9	90.6	95.5	91.8
New Jersey	92.3	91.3	95.4	93.0
Indiana	101.6	93.0	88.5	94.5
Alaska	95.6	92.2	97.5	95.1
Hawaii	92.5	98.3	96.3	95.8
Nebraska	95.0	96.5	96.4	96.0
Puerto Rico	95.4	94.2	99.8	96.4
Arizona	92.4	96.9	100.9	96.6
North Carolina	97.3	96.2	96.9	96.8
Kansas	112.7	134.6	89.1	102.7
Virginia	100.3	108.1	104.2	104.3

Note: A blank space indicates that a calculation is inappropriate for that year.

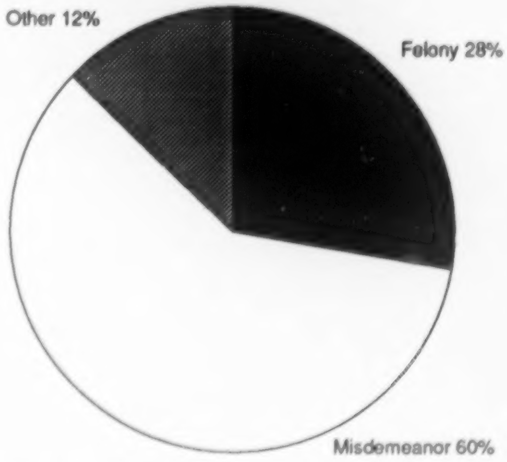
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Chart I.14 shows the distribution of criminal case filings in general jurisdiction courts in 1990. Felony filings represent 28 percent of the total, while misdemeanors constitute an additional 60 percent. The "other criminal" category, 12 percent of the total, is composed of DWI/DUI, criminal appeals from lower trial courts, and miscellaneous criminal cases (e.g., extradition).

Chart I.15 divides criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts into the three main categories. Misdemeanor filings represent 84 percent of the caseload, DWI/DUI cases 11 percent, and other criminal cases 5 percent of the total. The "other criminal" category is composed of a small number of felony filings (from those limited jurisdiction courts that have felony jurisdiction) and miscellaneous criminal cases.

MISDEMEANOR AND DWI/DUI CASES IN LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS. As seen in **Text Table I.13**, criminal caseloads in limited jurisdiction courts are composed almost exclusively of misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases. Even though the filing data have been adjusted for population, misdemeanor filings range from a low of 3,482 per 100,000 population in Wyoming to

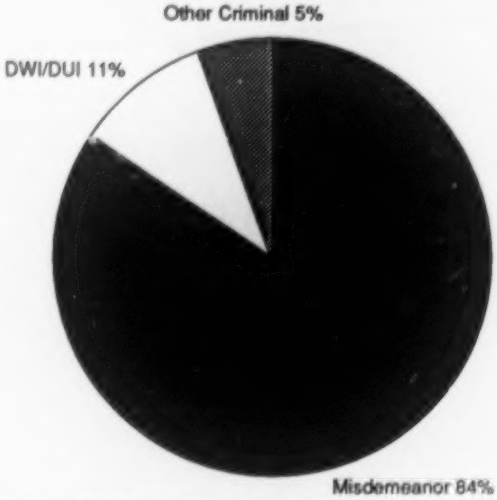
Chart I.14: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



The chart includes data from 26 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Chart I.15: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



The chart includes data from 18 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

13,714 per 100,000 population in Delaware. This distribution is not unexpected for two reasons. First, limited jurisdiction courts have considerable flexibility in how they count criminal cases and at what point the count is taken. As was noted earlier, states with high misdemeanor filing rates, such as Delaware, Texas, and North Carolina, all count cases in a way that increases their totals relative to other states. Second, the misdemeanor category contains a mixture of case types with quite different levels of severity. The more serious misdemeanors are likely to be enforced uniformly across the states, but the less serious may not receive the same attention in every state. Local police, prosecution, and adjudication practices are likely to vary more for misdemeanors than for any other criminal category.

In contrast, DWI/DUI filings per 100,000 show a good deal of consistency. This consistency may reflect the uniform importance given to DWI/DUI cases in the state courts. Broad public awareness and support for the enforcement of drunken driving laws is likely to lead to a more consistent adjudication of DWI/DUI cases. While several types of criminal cases are the focus of nationwide control policies (e.g., drug cases), it is difficult to judge the adoption of these policies across the states when the cases of interest are grouped into large categories such as misdemeanor or felony. But focusing on the specific category of DWI/DUI, one can see a basic consistency across states. This suggests a mild success story: national attention has been focused on the drunken driving problem, and all states seem to be following through.

TEXT TABLE I.13: Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI Filings per 100,000 Population in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990

State	Misdemeanor Filings per 100,000 Population	DWI/DUI Filings per 100,000 Population	Total Criminal Filings per 100,000 Population
Arizona	8,690	1,856	10,546
Colorado	NA	1,310	3,335
Delaware	13,714	702	14,563
Florida	3,635	725	4,360
Hawaii	3,846	806	4,713
Louisiana	4,444	514	4,958
Maine	3,764	NA	4,365
Maryland	4,722	1,172	5,894
New Hampshire	3,914	1,186	5,099
North Carolina	10,843	NA	10,843
North Dakota	3,898	DC	3,938
Ohio	NA	1,251	6,306
South Carolina	9,517	NA	9,845
Texas	11,919	859	13,350
Virginia	7,222	NA	10,173
Washington	5,248	1,165	6,413
West Virginia	9,503	DC	9,503
Wyoming	3,482	1,029	4,519

NA = Data are not available
DC = Data are combined with misdemeanor filings

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

TEXT TABLE I.14: Trends in Felony Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1984-90

State	Felony Index 1984	Felony Index 1985	Felony Index 1986	Felony Index 1987	Felony Index 1988	Felony Index 1989	Felony Index 1990	Adult Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Alaska	100	97	144	144	137	149	147	112
Arizona	100	113	134	140	144	156	170	122
Arkansas	100	119	122	138	123	138	143	102
California	100	111	127	141	155	178	203	116
Colorado	100	107	109	110	118	130	137	105
Connecticut	100	108	116	129	160	160	136	105
District of Columbia	100	117	153	189	203	202	190	100
Hawaii	100	97	96	93	98	105	102	110
Illinois	100	100	102	101	126	150	162	101
Indiana	100	109	135	145	156	194	203	103
Iowa	100	104	100	107	113	137	142	97
Kansas	100	92	97	101	107	111	107	102
Kentucky	100	96	96	82	90	103	107	101
Maine	100	115	112	113	115	130	149	108
Minnesota	100	104	105	110	116	116	125	106
Missouri	100	101	108	115	122	132	135	103
Montana	100	108	109	103	115	114	125	98
New Hampshire	100	110	127	145	159	173	175	115
New Jersey	100	102	104	111	118	143	154	105
New York	100	104	115	128	137	161	161	103
North Carolina	100	97	107	121	131	149	166	110
North Dakota	100	102	108	116	117	112	127	95
Ohio	100	98	104	106	118	140	151	102
Oklahoma	100	102	107	109	108	110	114	97
Oregon	100	104	113	123	135	137	143	108
Puerto Rico	100	107	138	140	148	148	161	115
Rhode Island	100	113	103	101	158	159	142	106
South Dakota	100	118	122	126	125	130	156	100
Texas	100	108	128	137	141	160	169	108
Vermont	100	103	118	119	121	116	122	108
Virginia	100	101	107	116	125	148	150	111
Washington	100	116	128	137	165	182	174	113
West Virginia	100	100	96	103	91	87	86	95
Wisconsin	100	107	106	101	106	130	138	103
Wyoming	100	100	100	93	101	109	103	91

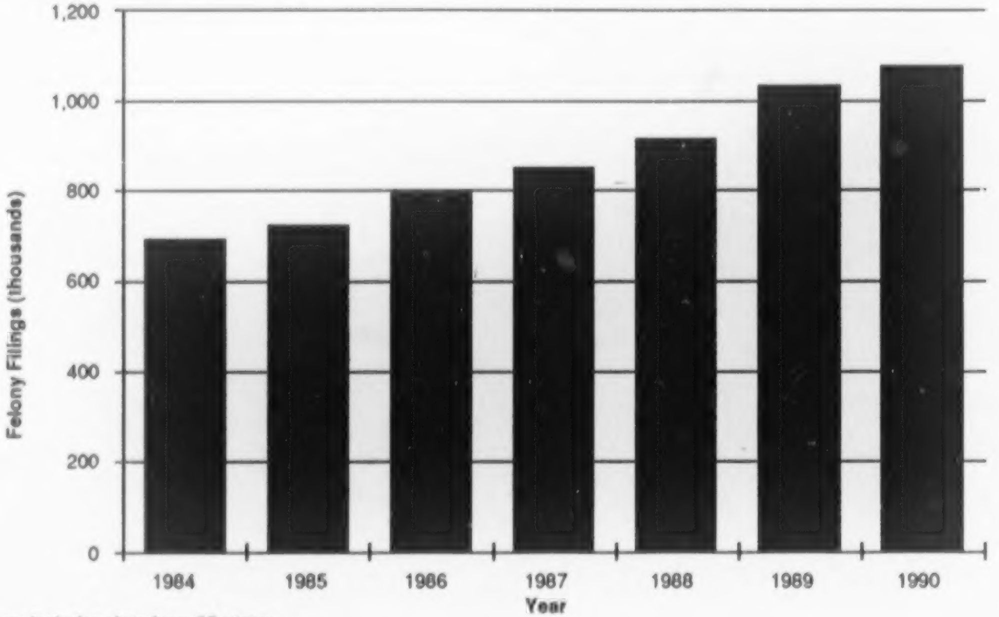
Source: Table 15, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

TRENDS IN FELONY FILINGS, 1984-90. Trend analysis offers a means to mitigate some of the limitations to making criminal caseload comparisons. Because states tend to retain their systems for classifying and counting cases, it reduces concern over issues such as unit of count and point of filing and allows each state to be compared validly to itself (i.e., its filings at different points in time). For this *Report*, comparable felony filing data over the period of 1984 to 1990 are available for general jurisdiction trial court systems in 35 states. The number of felony cases filed annually in each court system is detailed in Table 15, Part III.

The basic trend over the second half of the 1980s and into the 1990s is clear: felony filings are increasing substantially. As seen in **Text Table I.14**, felony caseloads grew in 34 of the 35 jurisdictions examined, with increases ranging from a modest 2 percent in Hawaii to a 103 percent in Indiana and California. Felony case filings grew by 50 percent or more in Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. West Virginia was the only jurisdiction in which fewer felony cases were filed in 1990 than in 1984, as shown in the decline in the index from 100 to 86.

Four trends emerge for felony cases. First, continuous and often substantial increases were recorded by 11 jurisdictions. Texas is an example. The index numbers for that state translate into successive percentage rises of 8 percent (1984-85), 19 percent, 7 percent, 3 percent,

CHART I.16: Felony Filings in Courts of General Jurisdiction, 1984-90



The chart includes data from 35 states.

Source: Table 15, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

13 percent, and 5 percent (1989-90). Texas is joined by Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington in establishing a clear upward trend.

Second, substantial increases were recorded after 1987 in Illinois, Iowa, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Initially, those states either registered small decreases or increases that were generally inconsistent in direction.

Third, filing levels may have peaked in some states in 1988 or 1989, since the number of cases has declined in 1990. This is a plausible scenario for Connecticut, District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wyoming. Fourth, the trends in Hawaii and West Virginia are distinctive. Hawaii's filing level has remained quite constant over the entire 1984-1990 period, while West Virginia is the only jurisdiction in which there was a downward trend to felony case filings.

This upward trend is clearly visible when the combined felony caseloads of the 35 jurisdictions are examined: an increase of over 50 percent between 1984 and 1990. **Chart I.16** depicts the trend that links the filing levels in those seven years. Felony filings grew from 691,139 filings in 1984 to 1,077,189 in 1990. Between 1988 and 1990, filings rose by over 17 percent (see Table 15, Part III).

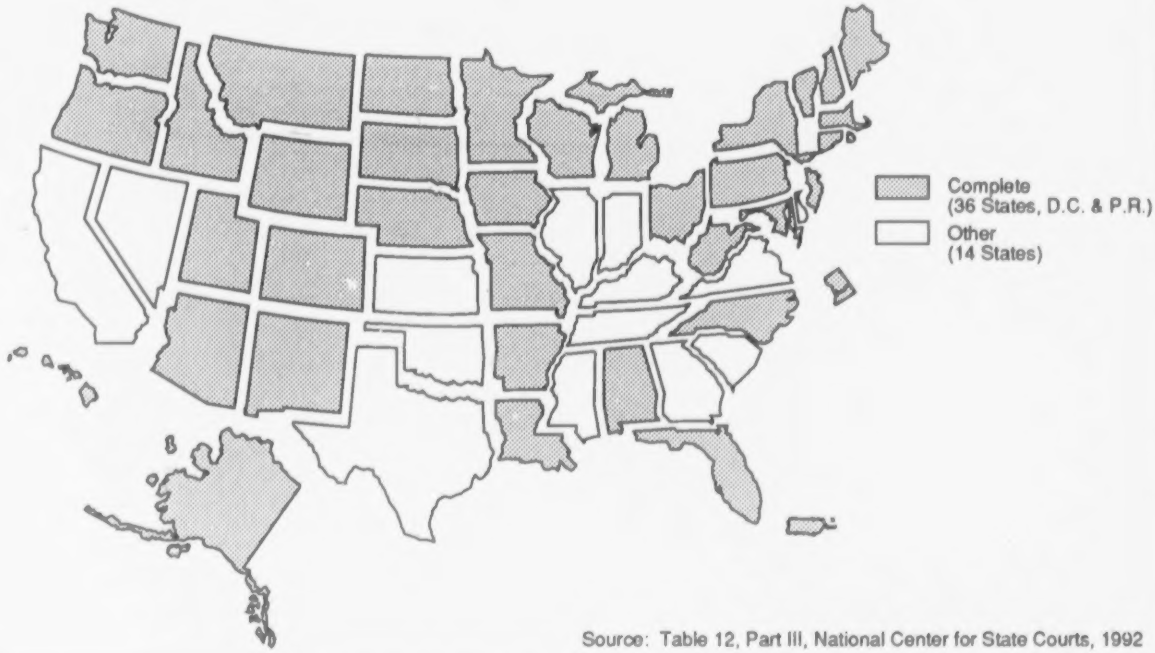
In sum, felony caseloads are clearly increasing, rapidly in some states. Most states, including states from all regions of the country, demonstrate an unambiguous pattern of [illegible]ing felony case filings. Hence, the expectation is that there should be even more felony cases in the future. This projection has substantial implications for the planning and allocation of court resources.

Juvenile Filings in 1990

The 1,543,667 juvenile petitions filed during 1990 represent a small share (1.5 percent) of the general and limited jurisdiction state trial courts' caseload. Even when traffic and other ordinance violation cases are omitted, juvenile petitions only account for about one trial court filing in 22 (4.7 percent). However, the volume of juvenile petitions is, perhaps, more appropriately seen in relation to the caseload of general jurisdiction courts where they are usually filed, often in a specially designated division or department. More than two-thirds (70 percent) of all juvenile petitions were filed in a court of general jurisdiction, where they represent 8 percent of the combined civil, criminal, and juvenile caseload. The following issues related to juvenile caseloads are covered in this section:

- The volume of juvenile caseloads. How are juvenile cases spread across general and limited jurisdiction courts? Are juvenile caseloads related as closely to the size of state population as are civil and criminal cases?

MAP I.8: States with Complete Juvenile Filing Data, 1990



Source: Table 12, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

- Clearance rates for juvenile cases. Are courts keeping up with the flow of new juvenile petitions?
- The composition of juvenile caseloads. What is the largest category of juvenile cases? Is the composition the same in general and limited jurisdiction courts?

Juvenile caseloads reflect the use made of the special procedures (sometimes special jurisdiction trial courts) for hearing cases involving persons defined by state law as juveniles. A juvenile petition is the equivalent to a case in an adult trial court when counting filings or dispositions.[34]

Filing and disposition statistics, along with explanatory footnotes, for each court with juvenile subject matter jurisdiction can be found in Table 12, Part III (p. 145). **Map I.8** displays the states that provided the Court Statistics Project with complete and comparable data on the number of juvenile petitions filed in 1990.

As shown in **Text Table I.15**, states with larger populations tend to have a larger number of total juvenile filings, although the relationship appears less pronounced than with civil and criminal cases.

- Nine states account for more than 50 percent of juvenile filings.
- Seven of these states are among the nine states with the largest populations.

Chart I.17 displays the relationship between population and juvenile filings in 1990. The dispersion of the squares around the line in the chart indicates that the relationship between population and juvenile filings is moderate in strength and relatively weaker than the connections between population and either civil or criminal filings.[35] Although the absolute number of juvenile cases is small, the relative variation from state to state is large. As seen in Text Table I.15, only some of this variation is directly attributable to differences in state population. Thus, population-adjusted juvenile filing rates are also likely to show a good deal of variation.

JUVENILE FILINGS PER 100,000 POPULATION. **Chart I.18** demonstrates the variability of the rate at

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[34] See State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989.

[35] There is a positive Pearson correlation coefficient of .63 between state population and total juvenile filings.

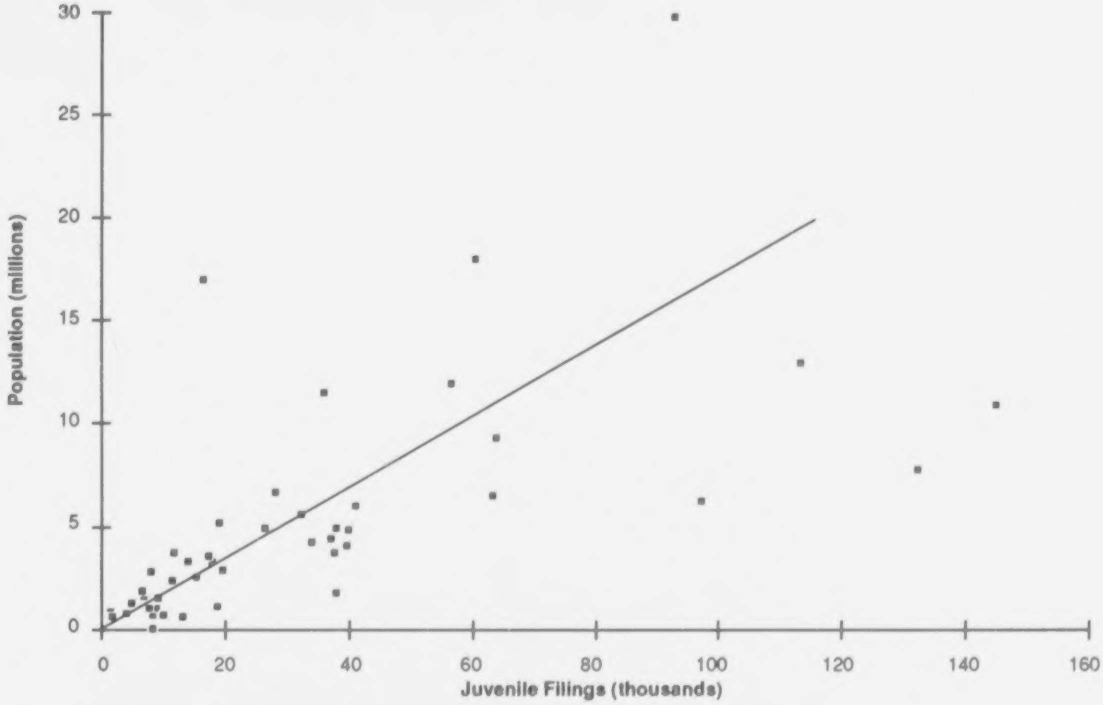
TEXT TABLE I.15: Total Juvenile Filings in General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990

State	Total Juvenile Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Juvenile Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Total Juvenile Filings	Population Ranking
Montana	1,565	NJ	1,565	45
Wyoming	1,576	NJ	1,576	52
Vermont	1,771	NJ	1,771	50
Alaska	2,190	121	2,311	51
South Dakota	4,054	NC	4,054	46
Maine	NJ	5,082	5,082	39
West Virginia	6,668	NJ	6,668	35
Nebraska	NJ	6,863	6,863	37
New Hampshire	NJ	7,521	7,521	41
Rhode Island	NJ	7,936	7,936	44
Iowa	8,060	NC	8,060	31
Puerto Rico	8,388	NJ	8,388	27
Delaware	NJ	8,465	8,465	47
Idaho	8,902	NC	8,902	43
New Mexico	9,191	NJ	9,191	38
North Dakota	10,136	NJ	10,136	48
Arkansas	11,579	NJ	11,579	34
Mississippi	3,647	8,119	11,766	32
Arizona	11,813	NJ	11,813	24
District of Columbia	13,297	NC	13,297	49
Connecticut	13,996	NJ	13,996	28
Kansas	15,401	NJ	15,401	33
South Carolina	NJ	17,376	17,376	25
Colorado	18,006	NJ	18,006	26
Hawaii	18,850	NJ	18,850	42
Missouri	19,062	NJ	19,062	15
Oregon	19,723	NJ	19,723	30
Washington	26,346	NJ	26,346	18
North Carolina	NJ	28,074	28,074	10
Indiana	31,649	688	32,337	14
Louisiana	27,892	6,305	34,197	21
Minnesota	37,244	NC	37,244	20
Kentucky	NJ	37,834	37,834	23
Wisconsin	38,049	NJ	38,049	16
Utah	NJ	38,118	38,118	36
Illinois	38,171	NC	38,171	6
Alabama	16,221	23,385	39,606	22
Maryland	36,566	3,310	39,876	19
Massachusetts	41,025	NC	41,025	13
Pennsylvania	57,285	NJ	57,285	5
New York	NJ	60,697	60,697	2
Michigan	NJ	64,128	64,128	8
California	92,998	NJ	92,998	1
Virginia	NJ	97,400	97,400	12
Florida	113,355	NJ	113,355	4
New Jersey	132,433	NJ	132,433	9
Ohio	145,017	NJ	145,017	7

NA = Data are not available
NC = There is no court of limited jurisdiction
NJ = Court does not have juvenile jurisdiction

Source: Table 12, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

CHART I.17: Total Juvenile Filings by Population, 1990



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

which juvenile petitions were filed during 1990, with the rates calculated per 100,000 state residents age 17 or under. Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are included.[36]

As expected, juvenile filing rates per 100,000 juvenile population range widely from 680 in Puerto Rico to 11,356 in the District of Columbia. There is an interesting division, however, of states on Chart I.18. Fifty percent of the states are clustered near the bottom of the chart between the 1,121 filings per 100,000 population in Iowa to the 2,328 per 100,000 population in Kansas. The range of filings per 100,000 population broadens quickly for the other half of the states above this level (2,608 in Michigan to 11,356 in the District of Columbia).

- Juvenile filing rates per 100,000 population range widely among the states; however, the median of 2,091 means that half the states cluster near the low end of the chart.

There is a good deal of consistency over time in the rankings of states at both ends of the chart. The District of Columbia, New Jersey, Hawaii, Utah, and Virginia have been among the six states with the highest juvenile filing rates since 1987. At the other extreme, Puerto Rico, Montana, Iowa, and Wyoming have historically had juvenile filing rates of 1,100 per 100,000 population or less.

The most apparent pattern in Chart I.18 is the more than tenfold difference between the lowest and the highest population-adjusted rates of juvenile filings. What explains this diversity, which is so much greater than what was found for either civil or criminal filing rates? Two plausible factors are the divergent means and degrees to which states have established special procedures and courts to process cases involving delinquent juveniles. Whereas categories of "civil" and "criminal" caseloads do not differ radically from state to state, there is no consensus on what constitutes a "juvenile" case. What is heard through regular court procedures in one state may well be heard through special juvenile court procedures in another. That sharp difference is manifest in the age at which a person is no longer eligible for juvenile court handling. Whereas many states define a juvenile as a person under age 18, there are numerous

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[36] The Arkansas County Court, sitting as the juvenile court, had exclusive jurisdiction to handle juvenile petitions until early in 1987. The Arkansas Supreme Court found that practice unconstitutional. Effective January 20, 1987, juvenile jurisdiction was transferred to the circuit court and the chancery and probate court, pending approval of a constitutional amendment, which was approved in November 1988, and pending a 1989 legislative act that would structure a new juvenile court system.

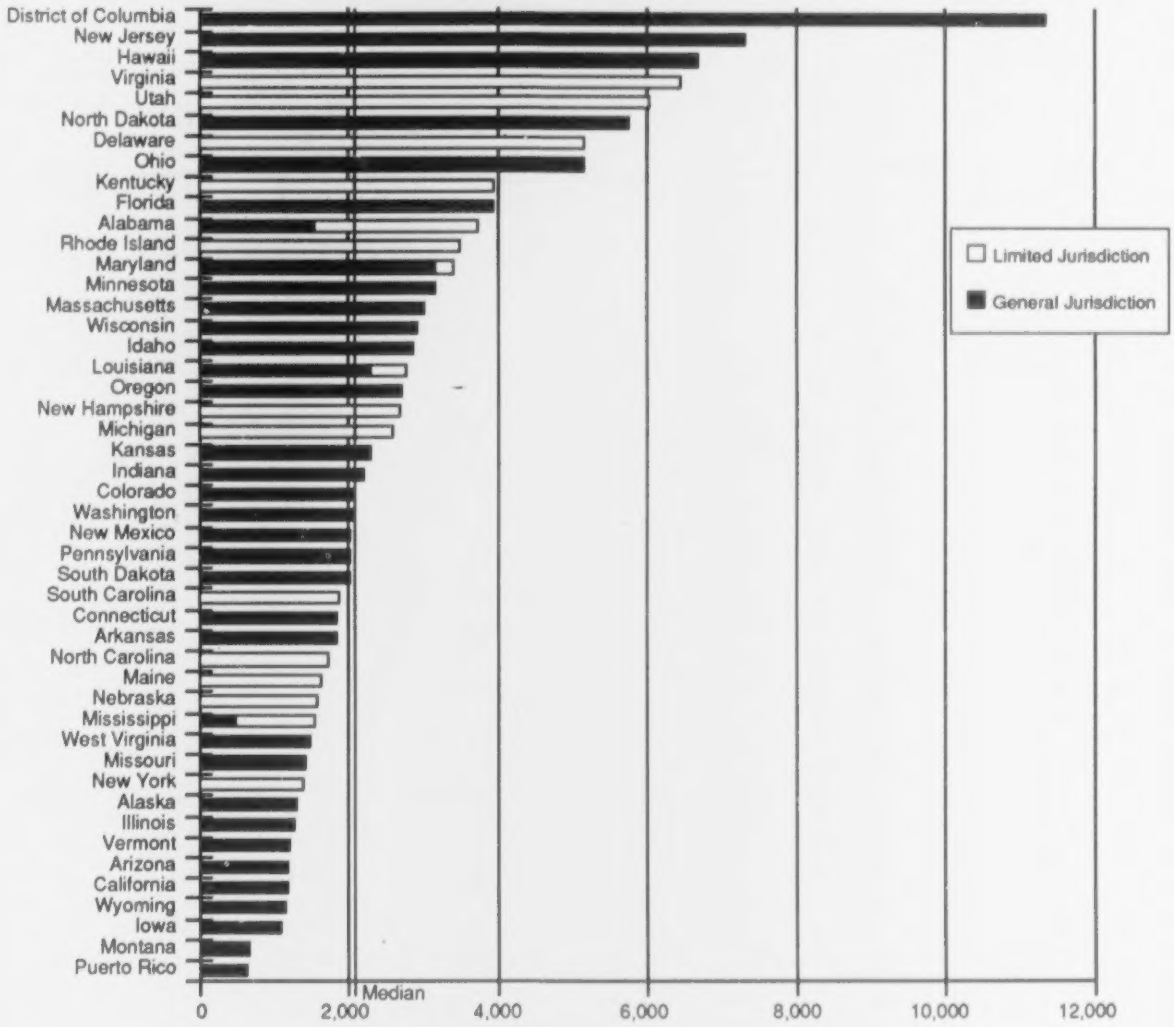

CHART I.18: Juvenile Case Filings per 100,000 Juvenile Population in State Trial Courts, 1990

The following states are not included: GA, NV, OK, TN, TX.

Source: Table 12, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

exceptions based on the offense alleged. For example, Louisiana statutes define a juvenile as a person under age 17, but a 15 year old can be charged in the district court as an adult if the offense is first- or second-degree murder, manslaughter, or aggravated rape; the threshold rises to 16 if the offense is armed robbery, aggravated burglary, or aggravated kidnapping.

The age at which a person is no longer eligible for original juvenile court handling affects a state's criminal and juvenile caseload. Research consistently shows that involvement in crime peaks in the 15-17 year old age group. Arrest statistics show that 15-19 year olds represent 28.7 percent of those arrested for FBI index crimes and 8.2 percent of the national population.[37] Therefore, the choice of 17 rather than 19 as the point to transfer court jurisdiction affects the relative number of juvenile as opposed to criminal court filings.

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia terminate original juvenile delinquency jurisdiction in juvenile courts at age 18; Wyoming at age 19. Georgia,

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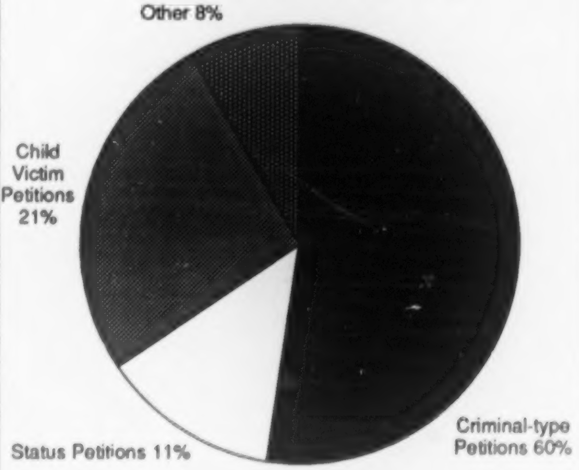
37. The authority for the "peak" at age 15-17 in criminal activity is Travis Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson, *Age and the Explanation of Crime*, American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 89, No. 3 (November 1983). The arrest percentage is calculated from Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1987, Table 33 at 174 (U.S. Government Printing Office 1988.

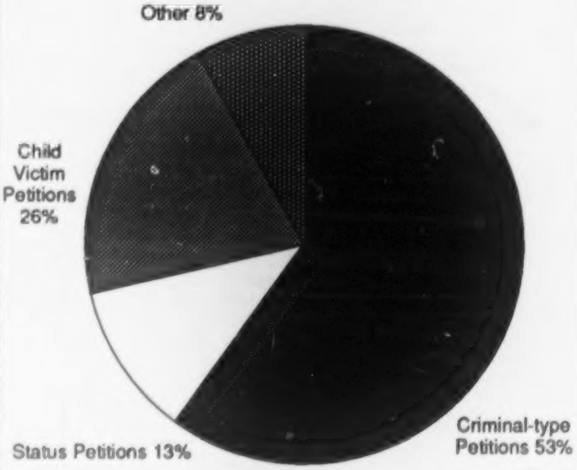
CHART I.19: The Composition of Juvenile Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



The chart includes data from 13 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

CHART I.20: The Composition of Juvenile Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1990



The chart includes data from 9 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas define an adult for purposes of court jurisdiction as a 17 year old. Four states, Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, and Vermont, use 16 as the threshold age dividing juvenile and adult status.

States that define juveniles as individuals aged 16 or 17 have a more narrow definition than most states; this should be reflected in the size of their juvenile caseload. Chart I.18 suggests that this is indeed the case for the states that use 16 as a dividing line (Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, and Vermont). All four states have filing rates below the median. Of the states that use 17, Illinois and Missouri show relatively low juvenile filing rates, but the other states shown on Chart I.18 that have adopted age 17 did not consistently report low rates.

The bars in the graph distinguish filings in courts of general jurisdiction from those in courts of special or limited jurisdiction. All filings in Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia were in courts of limited jurisdiction. Juvenile petitions in 29 of the states included on the graph were filed in general jurisdiction courts. Alabama, Alaska, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, and Mississippi file juvenile cases at both court levels.

COMPOSITION OF JUVENILE CASELOADS. The juvenile caseload includes three main case types: (1) criminal-type juvenile petitions (behavior of a juvenile that would be a crime if committed by an adult), (2) status offense petitions (conduct illegal only for juveniles), and (3) child victim petitions (dependency and neglect). **Chart I.19** summarizes the distribution of juvenile caseloads in 13 general jurisdiction courts in 1990.[38] Criminal-type petitions compose 60 percent, child victim petitions 21 percent, and status petitions 11 percent of the total. Other juvenile cases (e.g., child marriage) make up 8 percent of the caseload.

As shown in **Chart I.20**, the composition of juvenile cases filed in limited jurisdiction courts is similar to that found in general jurisdiction courts. The majority is criminal-type petitions (53 percent), followed by child victim petitions (26 percent), status petitions (13 percent), and other petitions (8 percent).[39]

While the proportion of each type of juvenile case tends to show some consistency across states in both general and limited jurisdiction courts, there are other factors that may affect both the number of each case type that is filed and the size of the caseload. For example, the decision to file the referral of a possible criminal-type juvenile offense as a juvenile petition can be influenced

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[38] The aggregate composition of juvenile cases displayed in this chart appears to reflect the composition of juvenile cases within each of the 13 state general jurisdiction courts. The coefficient of concordance (W) is .57 and is highly significant. While there may be a good deal of variation between states in the number of filings of a particular juvenile case type, the W coefficient can be interpreted as meaning that the percentage of each case type making up the total does not vary substantially from state to state.

[39] The aggregate composition of juvenile caseloads in limited jurisdiction courts seems to mirror the underlying composition present in each of the nine states in Chart I.20. The coefficient of concordance is .50 and highly significant.

TEXT TABLE I.16: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Juvenile Cases, 1988-90

General Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Arizona		100.0	101.1	
Florida	69.4	68.8	66.8	68.3
Alaska	75.5	73.3	80.6	76.6
Montana	83.4	78.3	79.9	80.5
Alabama	78.4	85.3	87.0	83.0
Colorado	87.9	86.9	83.7	86.0
Indiana	86.2	88.9	83.7	86.2
Illinois	75.5	100.6	88.5	88.5
Washington	89.3	93.0	95.4	92.7
Arkansas	100.7	92.1	85.6	92.7
Maryland	95.6	95.3	90.1	93.5
Hawaii	96.9	92.3	98.5	96.1
Idaho	98.7	91.5	98.4	96.2
Kansas	96.4	95.9	98.4	96.9
Missouri	98.6	96.5	97.2	97.4
New Jersey	98.9	97.8	97.7	98.1
Pennsylvania	95.4	100.5	98.5	98.2
New Mexico	100.5	95.5	99.6	98.4
Puerto Rico	100.7	96.4	98.9	98.6
Wisconsin	98.1	99.3	98.6	98.7
Vermont	95.9	104.7	96.3	98.9
Minnesota	99.7	97.5	99.3	99.1
Ohio	97.6	100.2	99.8	99.3
Connecticut	99.8	97.4	100.7	99.3
West Virginia	88.7	114.4	95.9	99.3
California	95.9	90.5	132.6	106.7
Texas	120.5	104.0	105.8	109.6

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Michigan		86.7	87.0	
Alaska	46.5	11.3	63.6	44.9
Maine	86.3	87.8	89.4	87.9
Kentucky	90.2	85.8	88.3	88.1
Maryland	85.7	81.0	99.6	89.2
Louisiana	93.3	90.7	89.2	91.4
Rhode Island	91.0	91.1	93.3	91.8
Virginia	94.2	96.0	97.4	95.9
Indiana	100.9	85.1	101.0	96.4
Alabama	93.6	99.0	97.2	96.6
Texas	100.8	92.7	98.5	97.2
Utah	100.5	97.4	99.0	99.0
New York	100.5	102.5	107.0	103.3
North Carolina	106.6	104.5	102.7	104.5

Note: A blank space indicates that a calculation is inappropriate for that year.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

by a number of parties. Law enforcement agencies differ in the extent to which they divert juvenile law violators from further penetration into the justice system, thereby influencing the reported number of juvenile cases. Additionally, case-screening practices by juvenile court intake officers vary significantly and create a wide range of referral-to-petition ratios. Prosecutors have differing authority at the intake juncture, which also will affect these ratios. Finally, the amount of judge time available and the size of probation officers' caseloads also may influence the number of petitions filed. Rural communities and states tend to file fewer petitions proportionately than more-urban jurisdictions; their delinquent offenses may be less serious and more amenable to noncourt or informal handling.

Generally, the juvenile status offense category varies extremely from state to state. Such cases are rarely petitioned in some jurisdictions, but routinely petitioned elsewhere. Although the number of such cases varies greatly from state to state, status offenses are almost always the smallest number of juvenile cases. There is also a good deal of variation in the number of dependency, neglect, and abuse cases that are filed. The frequency with which a child protection agency files juvenile court petitions, as opposed to working with a family without court intervention, has been shown to vary sizably, adding to the differences among the states in the rate at which juvenile petitions are filed.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR JUVENILE PETITIONS. Clearance rates for juvenile petitions, based on caseload statistics from Table 12, Part III (p. 145), are presented in **Text Table I.16** to address the question of whether juvenile petitions were being processed more expeditiously during 1990 than were civil or criminal cases. The table also provides the clearance rate each court recorded in 1988 and 1989 as well as the three-year clearance rate to ascertain whether what is reported for 1990 reflects short-term or long-term problems of the state courts.

In 1990 clearance rates are available from 41 separate court systems (27 general jurisdiction and 14 limited jurisdiction). Those rates vary from a low of 63.6 percent in Alaska to a high of 132.6 percent in California. Seven court systems reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater, 19 reported rates between 95 and 100 percent, 2 reported rates between 90 and 95 percent, and 13 courts reported rates of less than 90 percent. In 1990 general jurisdiction courts fared slightly better than limited or special jurisdiction courts in keeping pace with the flow of new cases. Most statewide court systems, however, ended 1990 with larger pending juvenile caseloads than they had at the start of the year.

Overall, state courts recorded somewhat greater success in coping with juvenile caseloads than with civil or criminal cases. Of the 39 courts for which a three-year clearance rate could be computed, 15 had rates of 98 percent or higher. Rising clearance rates are evident when the 1990 clearance rates are compared to the three-year rates. Where cases are heard in a general jurisdiction court, the 1990 clearance rate exceeded the three-year rate in 14 of the 26 states for which a comparison could be made. For courts of limited jurisdiction, the difference between the 1990 clearance rate and the three-year rate was even more pronounced: 10 of 13 states improved on the number of cases disposed of in 1990 relative to the three-year average. Therefore, although there is more variability in juvenile filing rates than in either civil or criminal rates, most states are making progress in disposing of their juvenile caseloads.

Two courts recorded significant improvements to their clearance rates between 1989 and 1990: the general jurisdiction court in California, which rose from 90.5 percent in 1989 to 132.6 percent in 1990, and the limited jurisdiction court in Indiana, which climbed from 85.1 to 101.0 percent. This contrasts with the decline in the clearance rates experienced by the general jurisdiction courts of Illinois (from 100.6 to 88.5 percent) and Arkansas (from 92.1 to 85.6 percent). However, while the trend in juvenile clearance rates appears to be improving, many courts continue to experience difficulty in disposing of as many juvenile cases as are being filed.

Work Loads of the Federal and State Judiciaries

To this point, the *Report* has focused exclusively on the work of the state courts. The composition of state court caseloads has been examined. Additionally, states have been compared in terms of total volume of cases with adjustments for differences in population. Finally, state court caseloads have been compared over time. However, the uses of caseload statistics can extend beyond state comparisons to such topical issues as the relative work loads of the state and federal trial court systems. Therefore, before turning to the situation in the appellate courts, data from this report and from the *Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 1990,* are used to construct a federal-versus-state comparison. Caseload statistics for the federal courts are based on a uniform method of collection, applied with consistency from district to district and from circuit to circuit.[40] However, they share some limitations inherent to caseload statistics, such as the treatment of all new filings as equivalent.

TEXT TABLE I.17: Aggregate Caseloads: Federal and State Courts, 1990

	Filings	Judges	Filings per Judge
All U. S. District Courts:			
Criminal	48,904	575 *	85
Civil	217,879	575 *	379
Bankruptcy-Courts	725,484	303	2,394
U. S. Magistrates	450,565	476	947
TOTAL	1,442,832	1,354	1,066
All state courts:			
Criminal	13,074,146	27,559	474
Civil	18,382,137	27,559	667
Juvenile	1,543,667	27,559	56
Traffic	67,555,197	27,559	2,451
TOTAL	100,555,147	27,559	3,649

* U. S. district court judges hear both civil and criminal cases. The 575 figure counts each judge once.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992 and U. S. Government Printing Office

With the recent (April 1990) *Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee*, the debate about the proper distribution of jurisdiction between federal and state courts continues. On the basis of the "goal [of a] principled allocation of jurisdiction,"[41] the committee proposed abolishing, with limited exceptions, federal diversity jurisdiction and curtailing federal drug prosecutions.

Implementing the committee's proposals requires that state courts assume responsibility for most diversity and drug cases now handled by federal courts. The committee acknowledges that state courts may also be overburdened. In response to the committee's analysis of federal court caseload burdens, an estimate of the relative work load currently being handled by federal courts as opposed to state courts is presented.[42]

Text Table I.17 shows the total number of civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic cases filed in the state trial courts and the total number of cases handled by the U.S. district courts, the U.S. bankruptcy courts, and the U.S. magistrates in 1990. Filings in the U.S. district courts include 217,879 new civil cases and 48,904 new criminal cases. U.S. magistrates handled an additional 450,565 cases, while the U.S. bankruptcy courts heard nearly 725,500 petitions.

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[40] These statistics are compiled in the Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

[41] Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee, at 35. The committee was appointed by the chief justice at the direction of Congress.

[42] This issue is considered in more depth in Brian J. Ostrom and Geoff Gallas, *Case Space: Do Workload Considerations Support a Shift From Federal to State Court Systems*, 14 State Court Journal 15-22 (Summer 1990).

To determine the relative size of federal and state court caseloads, population does not offer a useful standard for comparison. Instead, filings-per-judge expresses the relative caseloads of the federal and state courts in a manner directly related to work load. Moreover, because the state court caseloads are dominated by traffic and local ordinance violation cases that have no counterpart in the federal system and require little, if any, judicial attention, it is necessary and appropriate to restrict the comparison to civil and criminal cases in the primary trial courts of each system: state courts of general jurisdiction and the U.S. district courts. For criminal matters, both state courts of general jurisdiction and the U.S. district courts handle felonies (although both hear some serious misdemeanors).[43] For civil matters, states can be selected where the general jurisdiction courts hear a range of civil cases analogous to that found in the U.S. district courts.

Text Table I.18 provides information that indicates that the state general jurisdiction judiciary handles over 48 times as many civil and criminal cases with only 16 times as many judges as the federal judiciary. On average, the work load for a judge in a state court of general jurisdiction is three times larger than for a U.S. district court judge.[44] Before these relative work loads can be fully interpreted, it is necessary to know whether cases handled in the federal courts are more complex than those handled in the state courts. If federal court cases are more complex, then perhaps the difference in caseload per judge between the state and federal courts exists because federal cases require more judge time than state court cases. Yet, if the cases currently handled in the federal courts are more complex, it is crucial to know the dimensions of this complexity before these cases are shifted to the state courts. At this point, the relative complexity of federal and state court cases is primarily a matter of assumption due to the lack of systematic data on the subject. However, the debate over whether to shift cases from the federal to state courts ought not to proceed on the basis of an untested but testable assumption. Evidence on case complexity has important and direct implications for the feasibility and consequences of transferring federal drug and diversity-of-citizenship cases to the state courts. It seems reasonable to examine the evidence before tampering with so fundamental an institution as the state courts.

Summary of Trial Court Activity

What stands out in examining trial court caseloads is that volume is up, and up substantially in many states. Trends in all major case types are rising. Since 1984, civil caseloads have risen by 30 percent, criminal caseloads by 33 percent, juvenile caseloads by 28 percent, and traffic caseloads by 12 percent. In contrast, national population has increased by only 5 percent over the same seven-year period.

TEXT TABLE I.18: Civil and Criminal Filings in U.S. District Courts and State Trial Courts of General Jurisdiction

	Filings	Judges	Filings per Judge
All U. S. District Courts:			
Criminal	48,904	575	85
Civil	217,879	575	379
TOTAL	266,783	575	464
All General Jurisdiction State Courts:			
Criminal	3,785,608	9,325	406
Civil	9,175,487	9,325	984
TOTAL	12,961,095	9,325	1,390

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992, and U. S. Government Printing Office

Part I focuses on interstate caseload comparisons in 1990 as well as changes in each individual state over time. Three major case types—civil, criminal, and juvenile—are examined in detail. The analysis looks at (1) the total volume of each case type, (2) how the caseload levels vary by state both in terms of absolute volume and population size, (3) clearance rates, (4) the composition of each case type, and (5) trends in particular case types.

Volume

Ten or fewer states account for 50 percent or more of each of the different case types. The states with the largest civil filings are not necessarily the same as the states with the largest criminal or juvenile filings. However, the states that dominate each of the major types of cases have one thing in common: they tend to be the largest in terms of population. Caseload is correlated highly with population, although other factors affect caseload.

Caseload Adjusted for Population

There is state-to-state variability in civil, criminal, and juvenile caseloads, and it is not exclusively related to population. This is seen by the simple fact that not every state has the same number of filings per 100,000 population. Civil filings showed the least variation and may reflect the broadly similar civil law and procedure across the country. Greater variation characterized criminal filings, which may be partially due to differences in crime rates, substantive criminal laws, law enforcement practices, and criminal justice resources. The greatest variation was present for juvenile filings and may reflect the pronounced differences across states in rates of offending, state law, state law enforcement, and the philosophy of the court in dealing with juvenile cases.

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[43] Drunken driving and traffic offenses combined represent 17.8 percent of the U.S. District Court 1990 criminal caseload.

[44] There has been a decline in the number of civil cases filed in the U.S. district courts each year since 1985. As a consequence, civil filings per judge have fallen from 476 filings per judge in 1985 to 379 filings per judge in 1990.

Clearance Rates

The upward trend in case filings puts increasing pressure on courts as they attempt to stay current in the disposition of these cases. Many courts are experiencing difficulty in keeping up with the inflow of new cases. The number of new cases filed in 1990 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the court. The problem is more prevalent for civil and criminal cases than for juvenile cases, and more prevalent for limited than for general jurisdiction courts.

An examination of the three-year clearance rates, however, offers some encouragement. The 1990 clearance rate for criminal cases in general jurisdiction courts exceeds the three-year rate in two-thirds of the states. This implies that clearance rates in 1990 tended to be above the average clearance rates for 1988 to 1990. Further, the three-year clearance rate for civil cases was above 98 percent in nearly one-half of the state general jurisdiction court systems. Because courts must give priority to criminal caseloads, maintaining high criminal clearance rates is necessary to ensuring the timely disposition of all other case types.

Caseload Composition

The main point to emerge in the analysis of civil, criminal, and juvenile caseload composition is consistency. The underlying composition of civil, criminal, and juvenile caseloads is strikingly similar across different states. The number of cases may vary, but the business of the state courts is about the same. Despite differences in such factors as jurisdiction, crime rates, and law enforcement practices, states are handling cases in similar proportions.

Trial Court Filing Trends, 1984-90

Change rather than continuity characterizes the filings of felony and civil cases. Specifically, civil filing rates in general jurisdiction courts tend to fluctuate from year to year. The direction is toward higher rather than lower case filings, but few courts consistently demonstrate annual increases even over the limited time period considered here.

The trend in felony case filings is upward. With increases over a seven-year period that more than doubled the number of cases being filed in some states, the pressures on the courts are substantial indeed. Moreover, felony cases are usually heard at the general jurisdiction court level and are the type of criminal case with the most substantial implications for court staffing and resources.

The addition of 1990 data to the tort filing time series is far from conclusive in establishing clear trends. Between 1985 and 1986, tort filing rates increased in most states. This pattern was largely reversed between 1986 and 1989, with tort filings leveling off, often near pre-1986 levels, and a slight increase in 1990. A tendency toward higher filing rates is evident, but that assessment depends on the importance given to the trends in particular states and to the assumptions made about the long-term impact of tort reform.

The trend analysis also suggests that tort filings are changing over time in a manner that differs from other general civil case categories. Much of the variation in tort filing rates is attributable to specific legislative changes enacted by states during the second wave of major tort reform. Recent trends for contract and real property rights cases offer more consistency. Contract cases are experiencing moderate annual growth and real property rights cases substantial growth. Given the prevailing economic climate, it is possible that those types of cases will replace torts as the predictors of the increasing volume of litigation.

PART 2

APPELLATE COURT CASELOADS IN 1990 AND 1984-90 TRENDS

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Introduction

After trial courts render their judgments, a party may challenge the decision. Civil litigants may seek to overturn judgments against them, and criminal defendants may seek to reverse their convictions. For both sets of litigants, the appellate process offers the opportunity to alter an unfavorable outcome by convincing an appellate court that the trial court judgment was based on a reversible error. For example, the appellant (the party bringing the appeal) may contend that the trial court erred when it allowed particular testimony to be admitted, that the jury was given improper instructions, or that the statutory meaning or the constitutionality of a law was misinterpreted.[1]

The appellate process that courts across the country follow to resolve these issues consists of the same five basic steps: (1) record preparation, (2) briefing, (3) submission of oral argument, (4) conferencing by the judges, and (5) the rendering of a decision. Yet, despite the fact that the steps are similar, appellate courts are organized in quite different ways to handle the business brought before them.

The objective of Part II of the *Report* is to describe the caseload levels and trends in the American state appellate systems within the context of the diversity in court structure. Issues examined include:

- Appellate court structure and jurisdiction. How are mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction allocated between intermediate appellate courts and courts of last resort? How many states have both an intermediate appellate court and a court of last resort? Do organizational differences between courts shape their respective caseloads?

- Volume of appellate court caseload. How many appeals are filed nationwide and in individual states? After adjusting for population, are appellate court caseloads similar or different across the country? What is the appellate court caseload composition?

- Clearance rates for appellate cases. Are appellate courts keeping up with the new cases that are filed each year? Do clearance rates vary between mandatory and discretionary caseloads?

- Trends in appellate court caseloads. Is the volume of appeals rising, falling, or remaining relatively constant? Are the trends consistent across courts?

These questions are addressed within the framework of court structure and jurisdiction. An understanding of how courts are organized helps to explain similarities and differences in caseload levels and trends. Hence, this section begins by highlighting essential aspects of appellate court structure in 1990.

Appellate Court Structure in 1990

Appeals are heard by two types of appellate courts: (1) courts of last resort and (2) intermediate appellate courts. Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia have a court of last resort (COLR), usually designated the state supreme court. These courts were generally established early in each state's history. In contrast, the intermediate appellate court (IAC), usually named the state court of appeals, is a more contemporary development. While in 1957 only 13 states had permanent intermediate appellate courts, by 1990 there were permanent intermediate appellate courts in all but 12 states and the District of Columbia.[2] **Map II.1** displays the

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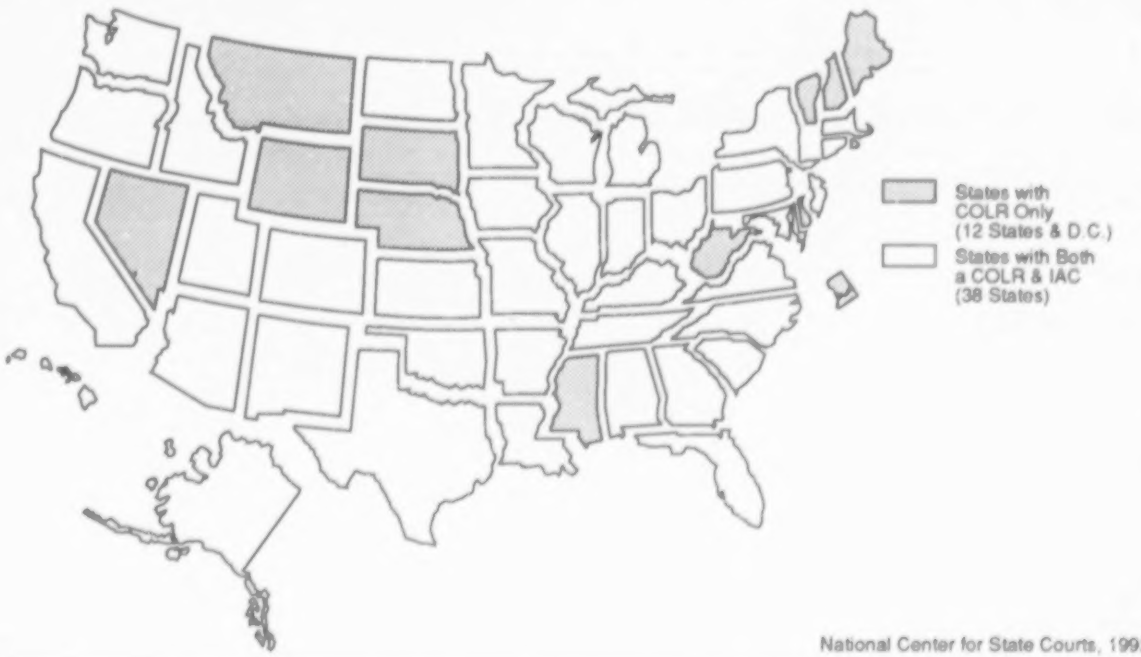
[1] It should not be assumed that all criminal appeals are defendant based. Government appeals, which are counted in state court caseload statistics, do occur, but infrequently. They have been found to account for only 2 to 3 percent of all criminal appeals. See Joy A. Chapper and Roger A. Hanson, *Understanding Reversible Error in Criminal Appeals*, Criminal Justice Quarterly (forthcoming 1992).

[2] In 1991 the picture changed again with an intermediate appellate court being established in Nebraska, thus reducing the number of states without an IAC. Additionally, North Dakota has been operating for the past several years with a temporary IAC that comes into play when the North Dakota Supreme Court deems it appropriate. It seems reasonable to expect that additional states may establish an intermediate appellate court as a way of dealing with appellate caseload pressures.

MAP II.1: Appellate Court Structure, 1990


▨ States with COLR Only (12 States & D.C.)
☐ States with Both a COLR & IAC (38 States)

National Center for State Courts, 1992

geographic distribution of states with only a COLR and states with both a COLR and an IAC.

In those states with both types of appellate courts, parties challenging trial court decisions generally bring their appeal first to the intermediate appellate court. For virtually all criminal appeals, the intermediate appellate court must accept the case because the court's jurisdiction is mandatory. However, because intermediate appellate courts tend to have some limited discretion to determine what civil cases it will hear, all civil appeals are not necessarily accepted.[3] After the intermediate appellate court hears a case and reaches a decision, a party dissatisfied with the decision may petition the court of last resort for further review.[4] The court of last resort, which generally has broad discretionary jurisdiction in both criminal and civil appeals, must first decide whether to accept the case for review. If the petition is granted, then the court of last resort hears the case and renders a decision. On the other hand, if the petition is denied, the litigation terminates, and the intermediate appellate court's ruling stands. The clearest exception to this pattern of review occurs in those states with capital punishment. In all instances, death-penalty appeals bypass the intermediate appellate court and go directly to the court of last resort. A geographic representation of how states with both a COLR and IAC allocate mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction between the two levels is shown in **Map II.2**.

In those states where there is no intermediate appellate court, civil and criminal litigants bring their appeals directly to the court of last resort. In these 12 states and the District of Columbia, the court of last resort tends to resemble an intermediate appellate court in terms of its caseload levels and trends. This is because the jurisdiction of these courts of last resort commonly is mandatory, which is also true for most intermediate appellate courts. As seen in **Map II.3**, however, there are two exceptions. New Hampshire and West Virginia have courts of last resort with exclusively discretionary jurisdiction, although neither state has an intermediate appellate court.[5]

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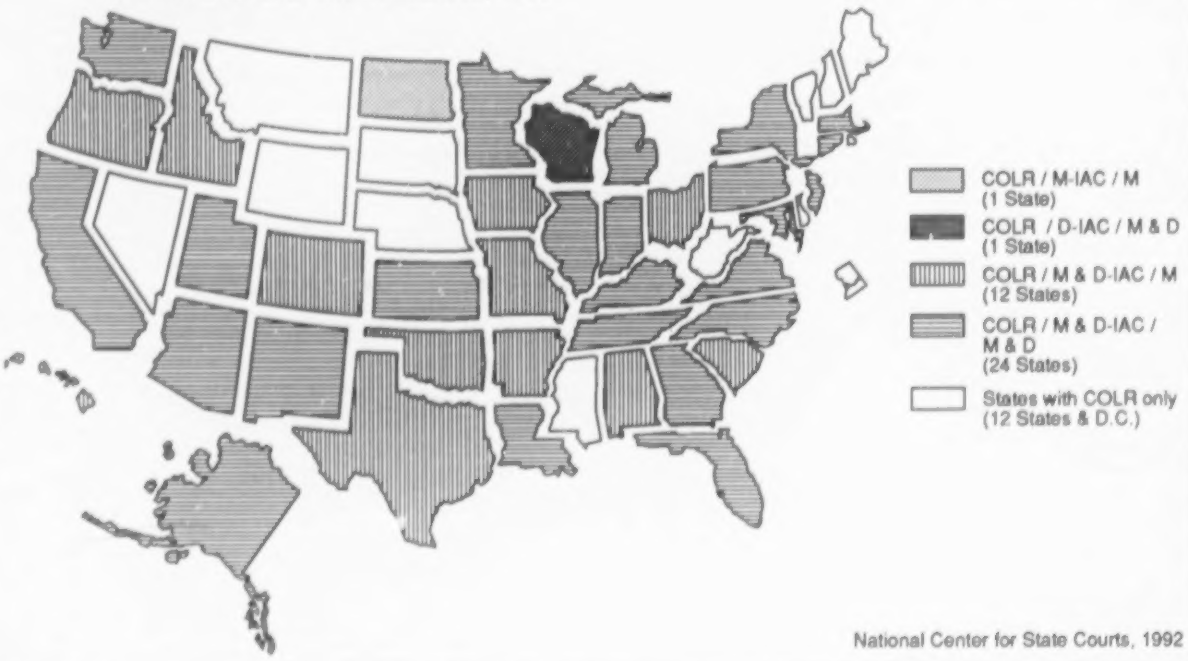
[3] Discretionary jurisdiction should not be assumed to be a light responsibility. The process of screening petitions is very labor-intensive and imposes a burden on courts in addition to work necessary to decide the cases that they do choose to hear.

[4] The fact that appellate courts must accept some cases does not mean, of course, that the courts render a decision in each case. Some cases are withdrawn or settled before the court reaches a decision, or dismissed by the court.

[5] The court structure charts in Part IV provide a point of reference for further distinctions among appellate court structures.

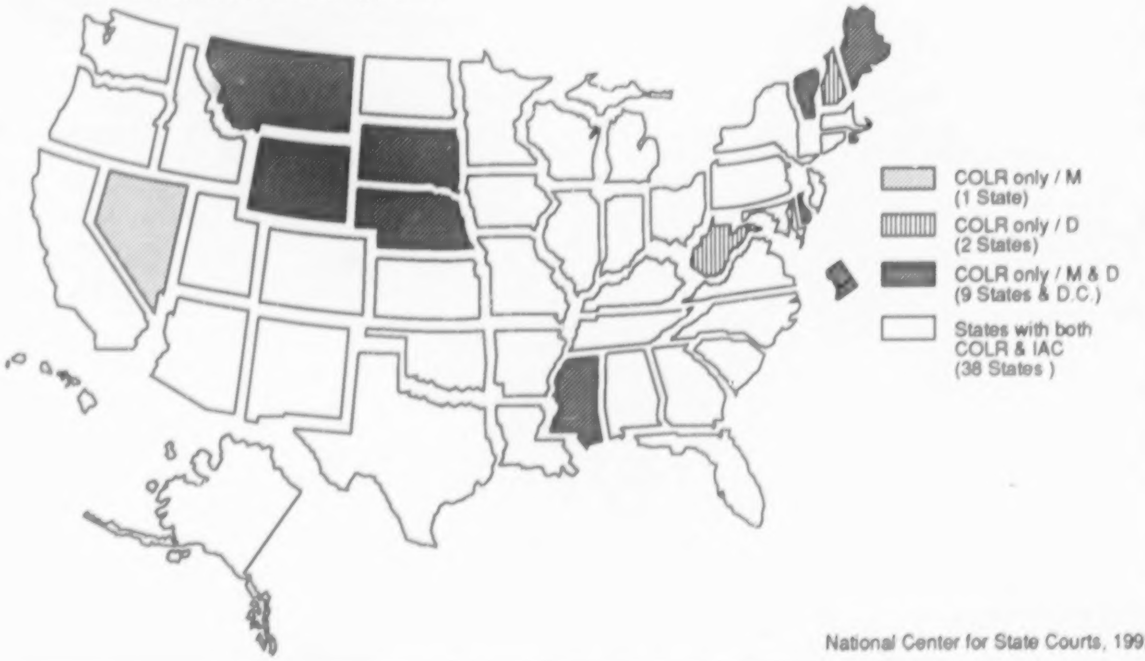
MAP II.2: Appellate Court Jurisdiction States with Both COLR and IAC, 1990



▨ COLR / M-IAC / M (1 State)
■ COLR / D-IAC / M & D (1 State)
▥ COLR / M & D-IAC / M (12 States)
▤ COLR / M & D-IAC / M & D (24 States)
☐ States with COLR only (12 States & D.C.)

National Center for State Courts, 1992

MAP II.3: Appellate Court Jurisdiction States with a COLR only, 1990



▨ COLR only / M (1 State)
▥ COLR only / D (2 States)
■ COLR only / M & D (9 States & D.C.)
☐ States with both COLR & IAC (38 States)

National Center for State Courts, 1992

Courts of Last Resort

Although some courts of last resort operate with and others operate without an intermediate appellate court, they all share some important characteristics. Most have either five or seven members.[6] The entire bench generally sits as a group, or en banc, to hear cases. The work of these courts consists primarily of those civil and criminal appeals the judges have chosen to hear, although most of these courts also have mandatory jurisdiction for particular categories of cases. In addition to hearing appeals from either trial courts directly (e.g., death penalty cases) or by granting a petition for review, courts of last resort have jurisdiction in original proceedings (e.g., writs of mandamus, injunctions). Finally, they supervise the bar by reviewing cases involving potential disciplinary action against attorneys.

Caseload levels and trends are important to courts of last resort because their structures are relatively inflexible in response to changes. This is partially because, historically, they have had very limited growth in the number of their judges. While the legislature may increase the membership of courts of last resort from five to seven or seven to nine judges in response to a rising number of appellate cases, the courts more typically face two other options: (1) they may lower the rate at which they accept discretionary petitions in response to increases in the total number of petitions, thereby keeping the number of petitions heard at a relatively constant level, and/or (2) they may allocate some of their cases to the intermediate appellate court. However, because there are limits to the extent to which courts of last resort can exercise these options, increases in the volume of cases can and do have an appreciable impact on COLRs. Despite the common concern that courts of last resort have with respect to changes in caseload levels and trends, there are organizational differences among these courts that affect the size and shape of their caseloads. Some of the key differences include the following:

- In some states (Hawaii, Iowa, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) appeals go first to the court of last resort, which decides the appeals that it will retain and the appeals that will be heard by the intermediate appellate court.
- In Oklahoma and Texas, there are separate civil and criminal courts of last resort.
- In several courts of last resort, cases are heard frequently by panels of judges, rather than exclusively en banc.
- Whereas the overwhelming majority of the courts have five or seven members, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals has three members, while the Oklahoma Supreme Court, both Texas courts, the District of Columbia, and four other states (Alabama, Iowa, Mississippi, and Washington) have nine-member bodies.

Intermediate Appellate Courts

Permanent intermediate appellate courts exist in 37 states and are usually established with statewide jurisdiction. Their creation and expansion represent the major organizational change in American courts during the past 30 years. The courts generally sit in the state capital but the judges may travel periodically to other locations to hear oral argument. As caseloads have grown, and judges have been added in response, some states have divided their IACs into separate regional districts to maintain collegiality and cohesion among the judges. There is no clear consensus on what the optimal size of an intermediate appellate court should be, but the issue of creating regional courts has tended to arise when an existing court reaches about 15 to 20 judges. It should not be assumed, however, that all intermediate appellate courts have more judges than the court of last resort. While it is generally true, the following are exceptions:

- In Alabama, the court of civil appeals has three judges and the court of criminal appeals has five judges, but the supreme court has nine members.
- In Alaska, the court of appeals has three members, but the supreme court has five judges.
- In Arkansas, the court of appeals has six judges, but the supreme court has seven members.
- In Hawaii, the intermediate court of appeals has three judges, but the supreme court has five members.
- In Idaho, the court of appeals has three judges, but the supreme court has five members.
- In Iowa, the court of appeals has six judges, but the supreme court has nine members.

New Jersey's 28-judge appellate division of the superior court is the largest intermediate appellate court with statewide jurisdiction. The eight states that have more judges (California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Texas) are all organized into regional districts. There are several states, however, that have fewer than 28 judges, but are organized on a regional basis.[7] If each regional district court is counted separately, then there are 106 state intermediate appellate courts across the country.

Regional intermediate appellate courts have their own presiding judge, court staff, and local rules of procedure. Some of the regional district courts are further organized into permanent subdivisions, each with its own presiding judge (e.g., California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District). In these states, one of the tasks of the court of last resort is to ensure uniformity in the law by reconciling differences that arise among the decisions made by the separate regional districts about the same matters of law.

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[6] Figure G (Part V, p. 274) provides state-by-state information on the number of judges at all levels of the state courts.

[7] Appellate court structure is displayed in Part IV.

Intermediate appellate courts were created to deal with problems of caseload pressures imposed on courts of last resort. They have achieved that objective by taking on a substantial portion of the mandatory caseload of most appellate courts. A common distinction made in the literature on state appellate courts is that intermediate appellate courts serve an error-correcting function and courts of last resort have a law-making function. That is, IACs are viewed as a means of ensuring that the trial courts are accountable and resolve cases according to established law and procedures. In contrast, courts of last resort are viewed as determining the meaning of law and shaping legal policy, especially through their discretionary jurisdiction. While there is some truth to this distinction, reality is more complex. Intermediate appellate courts are the final arbiters in fact, if not in theory, of most of the appeals arising from the trial courts; this way, they also shape the contours of the law.

The work of the intermediate appellate courts generally is performed by three-member panels. Exceptions to this arrangement include en banc reviews, that can occur in any court, and New Jersey's use of two-judge panels in routine cases. Intermediate appellate courts hear criminal and civil appeals, including domestic relations cases. In addition to appeals from state trial courts, intermediate appellate courts hear appeals from administrative agency proceedings (e.g., unemployment insurance, worker's compensation). While intermediate appellate courts share a general error-correcting function, there are organizational differences among them that affect the volume and composition of their caseloads. Some of those differences include the following:

- In five states, as mentioned previously, appeals go first to the court of last resort. The court of last resort then decides what cases should be heard by the intermediate appellate court.

- In Alabama and Tennessee, there are separate courts for civil and criminal appeals.

- In some states, such as Virginia, the intermediate appellate court was established with primarily criminal jurisdiction. Over time, the jurisdiction may be expanded to include civil cases as well. (In Maryland, the process worked in reverse. The IAC began with civil jurisdiction and later gained jurisdiction in criminal cases).

In addition to these organizational differences, intermediate appellate courts vary in subject matter jurisdiction. This diversity is illustrated by whether offenders are permitted to challenge their sentences as well as their convictions. In all states, including those with determinant sentencing, offenders can question whether the sentence was beyond the statutory maximum. In some states, however, offenders can challenge the application of particular sentencing provisions (e.g., enhancements associated with a habitual offender statute). As a result, two states with roughly equal populations may have quite different criminal appeal caseloads. The state with appellate sentencing review is likely to have a much higher mandatory caseload than the state with limited sentencing review.

State Appellate Caseloads in 1990

Overview

The volume of appeals reached a new high in 1990. More appeals were filed in state appellate courts than in any preceding year. Based on information from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the total number of mandatory and discretionary filings was 238,007, which is a 3.7 percent increase over the level reached in 1989.

Most of these cases were appeals of right that the state appellate courts are mandated to hear. Specifically, mandatory appeals numbered 174,251 in 1990, or 73 percent of the nationwide appellate court caseload. Discretionary petitions represent a 27 percent share of the total caseload. Because COLRs and IACs have various combinations of mandatory and discretionary authority, it is important to see where the increase in mandatory appeals and the discretionary petitions occurred.

The volume of mandatory appeals in IACs went from 142,117 in 1989 to 148,831 in 1990, a 4.7 percent increase. In COLRs, which have fewer mandatory appeals than IACs, there was a 1 percent decrease in the number of such cases as volume dropped from 25,608 in 1989 to 25,420 in 1990. Thus, the increase in mandatory appeals overall occurred entirely in the IACs.

The change in the volume of discretionary petitions presents a mirror image of the pattern in the mandatory area. The COLRs experienced a 4 percent increase in the number of discretionary petitions between 1989 and 1990 as the number of petitions grew from 43,01[illegible] to 44,815. This growth contrasts with a marginal increase in discretionary petitions in the IACs. The IACs received 18,941 petitions in 1990 compared to 18,756 in 1989.

The importance of these figures is threefold. First, they demonstrate that appellate court caseloads in 1990 continue a long-term trend of increasing volume that began in the 1960s and that the increase is occurring at both levels of state appellate systems and for both basic types of appeals.[8] Second, the data also reveal that the caseload pressures for courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts are different in fundamental ways. Courts of last resort are confronted with increases in discretionary petitions, which account for the largest share of their caseloads. In contrast, intermediate appellate courts are confronted with increases in mandatory appeals that form the major portion of their caseloads. Third, from the standpoint of volume, the image of intermediate appellate courts as the workhorses of state appellate court systems appears to capture an important reality. This can be shown by breaking down the caseloads of COLRs and IACs into categories of appeals: (1) IAC mandatory, (2) COLR discretionary, (3) COLR mandatory, and (4) IAC discretionary. As seen in **Chart II.1**, IACs have most of the appeals (70 percent). Furthermore, the largest category of appeals consists of those that fall within the mandatory jurisdiction of IACs (62 percent). By contrast, the discretionary jurisdiction caseload of the IACs is the smallest of the four categories (8 percent). Hence, for every discretionary petition that an IAC is asked to accept, there are nearly eight appeals of right that they must accept.

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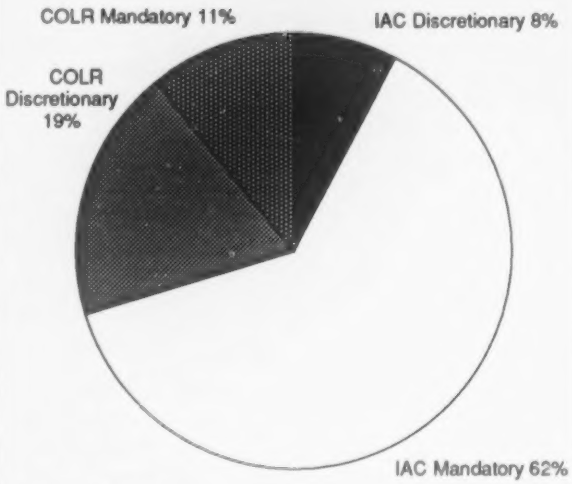
[8] Previous studies have pointed out that appellate court caseloads have been doubling every 8 to 10 years since the 1960s. See Victor E. Flango and Mary E. Elsner, *Advance Report: The Latest State Court Data*, 7 State Court Journal 16 (Winter 1983); Thomas B. Marvell and Sue A. Lingren, The Growth of Appeals (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics 1985).

Chart II.1: Appellate Case Filings, 1990



Total = 238,007

Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

The Number of Appeals in Each State

The average number of appeals in each state in 1990 is typified by the 2,967 cases filed in Indiana. Half of the states have fewer appeals than Indiana and half of the states have more appeals. Yet, while this median point conveys important information, further examination of the distribution of caseload levels across the states enhances the descriptive picture.

Caseload levels extend from a low of 314 appeals in Wyoming to a high of 25,392 in California, as seen in **Text Table II.1**. This wide difference in caseload levels can be represented in two different ways. First, 11 states have fewer than 1,000 appeals. This cluster of states contrasts sharply with the 11 states having the largest numbers of appeals; these states handled over 5,000 appeals each. Second, the uneven distribution is seen in the concentration of appeals: eight states (Louisiana, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Florida, and California) have a majority of the nation's appeals. Despite the considerable variation in the number of appeals per state, two distinct patterns emerge. First, the states with the fewest number of cases have appellate systems composed only of a court of last resort. Ten of the 11 states with fewer than 1,000 appeals do not have an intermediate appellate court; conversely, of the 11 states with the largest number of filings, all have two-tiered systems. Furthermore, all but two of these have a regional intermediate appellate court (the exceptions being New Jersey and Michigan).

Second, as one might expect, the ratio of mandatory to discretionary petitions varies with the total number of filings; states with few total filings have a greater number of mandatory than discretionary filings. This tendency occurs because in states with the fewest total filings, the composition is overwhelmingly mandatory. On the other hand, states with more filings than the 11 smallest state appellate systems have greater balance between the types of petitions. Mandatory petitions outnumber discretionary petitions, but to a lesser degree than in the states with the fewest number of total filings. Finally, among the states with the largest number of filings, the ratio of mandatory to discretionary petitions is greater than in states with a medium number of appeals. This is because in large states, the IACs have primarily mandatory jurisdiction and tend to handle a significant majority of the total caseload.

Analysis of the information in Text Table II.1 supports these conclusions. Discretionary petitions are almost nonexistent among the one-third of the states with the smallest number of total filings. New Hampshire is the only exception to the pattern because its jurisdiction is completely discretionary. Among the middle third of the states, most systems have ratios of two or three mandatory appeals to every discretionary appeal. Finally, among the third of the states with the largest number of total filings, most of the states have ratios of four, five, or six mandatory filings to every discretionary petition.

The Total Number of Appeals and State Population

The most obvious explanation for the particular number of cases in a state appellate court system is the number of individuals living in the state. The larger the state's population, the larger the number of appeals filed. This expectation is supported by the data presented in

TEXT TABLE II.1: Total Appellate Court Filings, 1990

State	Total Mandatory Filings	Total Discretionary Filings	Total Appellate Court Filings	Population Ranking
Wyoming	314	NJ	314	51
North Dakota	442	NJ	442	47
South Dakota	403	49	452	45
Delaware	483	1	484	46
Maine	622	DC	622	38
Vermont	590	32	622	49
New Hampshire	NJ	627	627	40
Montana	633	NJ	633	44
Idaho	564	77	641	42
Rhode Island	465	177	642	43
Hawaii	624	43	667	41
Mississippi	961	64	1,025	31
South Carolina	972	61	1,033	25
Alaska	776	292	1,068	50
Nevada	1,089	NJ	1,089	39
Utah	1,195	48	1,243	35
Nebraska	1,270	DC	1,270	36
New Mexico	1,094	460	1,554	37
Arkansas	1,578	DC	1,578	33
West Virginia	NJ	1,623	1,623	34
Connecticut	1,388	305	1,693	27
District of Columbia	1,650	45	1,695	48
Kansas	1,366	461	1,827	32
Iowa	1,954	DC	1,954	30
North Carolina	1,524	1,077	2,601	10
Indiana	2,165	802	2,967	14
Tennessee	2,089	895	2,984	17
Massachusetts	1,654	1,360	3,014	13
Maryland	2,267	830	3,097	19
Minnesota	2,439	974	3,413	20
Colorado	2,497	1,072	3,569	26
Kentucky	2,850	812	3,662	23
Wisconsin	2,853	842	3,695	16
Virginia	477	3,345	3,822	12
Oklahoma	3,801	446	4,247	28
Alabama	3,691	867	4,558	22
Missouri	3,812	809	4,621	15
Georgia	3,074	1,873	4,947	11
Washington	3,801	1,242	5,043	18
Oregon	4,778	791	5,569	29
Arizona	4,583	1,127	5,710	24
New Jersey	7,394	1,217	8,611	9
Illinois	8,390	1,582	9,972	6
Louisiana	3,917	6,664	10,581	21
Texas	10,346	2,587	12,933	3
Ohio	11,406	1,872	13,278	7
Pennsylvania	10,007	3,681	13,688	5
Michigan	12,342	2,507	14,849	8
New York	13,124	4,499	17,623	2
Florida	15,003	3,760	18,763	4
California	13,534	11,858	25,392	1

DC: Data are combined with mandatory filings.
NJ: Court does not have jurisdiction over the case type.

Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

Text Table II.1, which show a strong correspondence between each state's total caseload and its population size.[9]

The congruence between caseload and population has at least three important implications. First, almost all appellate court systems in states experiencing population growth should expect growth in caseload volume to track growth in the population. As a result, nationally as well as in most states, the number of appeals will rise unless the discretionary jurisdiction of appellate courts is expanded or particular matters are completely removed from the system's jurisdiction and transferred to some other dispute resolution process. Second, because the correspondence between caseload volume and population size is not perfect, the other social, economic, and legal factors will affect appellate filing rates. Thus, individual states should not rely exclusively on population projections in estimating future caseload levels. Third, the close connection between population size and total caseload levels suggests the need to control for population size when statistical comparisons are made of different state appellate systems. For example, if population is taken into account, do trends across states look similar? What differences exist after controlling for population size?

A Comparison of State Appellate Caseload Levels After Taking Population into Account

Applying the common standard of comparing appellate case filings per 100,000 population will clarify how similar or dissimilar the states are. As seen in Chart II.2 and Chart II.3, variation remains across the states, although it is not as substantial as the variation in the absolute number of appeals.

Turning first to **Chart II.2**, the volume of each of the four basic categories of appeals per 100,000 population for states with a COLR and an IAC is represented by a bar. The larger the ratio of appeals to population, the longer the length of the bar; the larger the ratio of appeals in a given category, the longer a particular segment of the bar. Because population is such an important determinant of the number of appeals, it is not surprising that the appellate filing rates of most states fall within approximately 50 filings of the average (or median) rate of 85 filings per 100,000 population (represented by California). Thus, while California has the largest absolute number of filings, its number per 100,000 population reflects the national average (it is the median, or midpoint). In addition, some other important patterns emerge from this analysis of the ratio of appellate filings to population.

The longest portion of the bar for most states in Chart II.2 is that representing the mandatory appeals filed with IACs. This suggests that IACs across the country face similar work load pressures relative to their populations. Exceptions to this pattern are likely to be the result of some COLRs retaining mandatory appeals. In Hawaii, Iowa, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, for example, COLRs screen cases before sending some of them on to the IACs. In these states, one might expect more mandatory appeals to be retained by the COLR, leaving relatively fewer mandatory appeals at the IAC level than in other states. This expectation is met because the portion of the bar representing COLR mandatory appeals is longer relative to the IAC mandatory portion in these five states than it is in the other states.

Another pattern is that the portion of the bar representing the ratio of COLR mandatory appeals to population is short and of the same relative length for most states. Thus, virtually all state COLRs are alike in that mandatory petitions constitute a minority of their caseloads. The exceptions to this pattern include the five COLRs mentioned previously that retain an unusually large percentage of mandatory appeals.

A fourth pattern is that the share of the IACs' combined mandatory and discretionary appeals is greater for states having the largest number of appeals per 100,000 population. That is, as the total filings increase relative to population, IACs take on a larger share of the total caseload. This phenomenon can be seen in Chart II.2 because as the total length of each bar becomes longer, the relative length of the IAC portion of the bar becomes longer. This pattern is a strong indication that the workhorse image of IACs is accurate. As the volume of cases in the state appellate system increases relative to population, the IACs bear a larger share of that burden.

In states where the appellate system consists of a COLR without an IAC, however, another set of patterns emerges. In **Chart II.3**, the caseload levels per 100,000 population for each of these 12 states and the District of Columbia are represented by separate bars. An examination of the length of the bars reveals three relationships that distinguish these appellate systems from those having both a COLR and an IAC. First, mandatory caseloads dominate the overall picture of these appellate systems, except in West Virginia and New Hampshire, both of which have entirely discretionary jurisdiction. Thus, it appears that unless a COLR without an IAC has completely discretionary jurisdiction, it will have virtually no discretionary petitions. In these systems, therefore, discretionary petitions tend to be all or nothing.

Second, the ratio of all appeals to population, including both mandatory and discretionary filings, is quite similar across the 12 states. Despite New Hampshire's and West Virginia's sharp jurisdictional differences from the other 10 states, the length of every bar in the chart is about the same. Thus, all COLRs without an IAC, with the exception of the District of Columbia, are alike in total caseload levels adjusted for population, suggesting that they are a homogenous group of courts.

Finally, the COLRs without an IAC have one characteristic in common with some of the other states included in Chart II.2. The high frequency of mandatory appeals in the COLRs without an IAC is similar to the dominance

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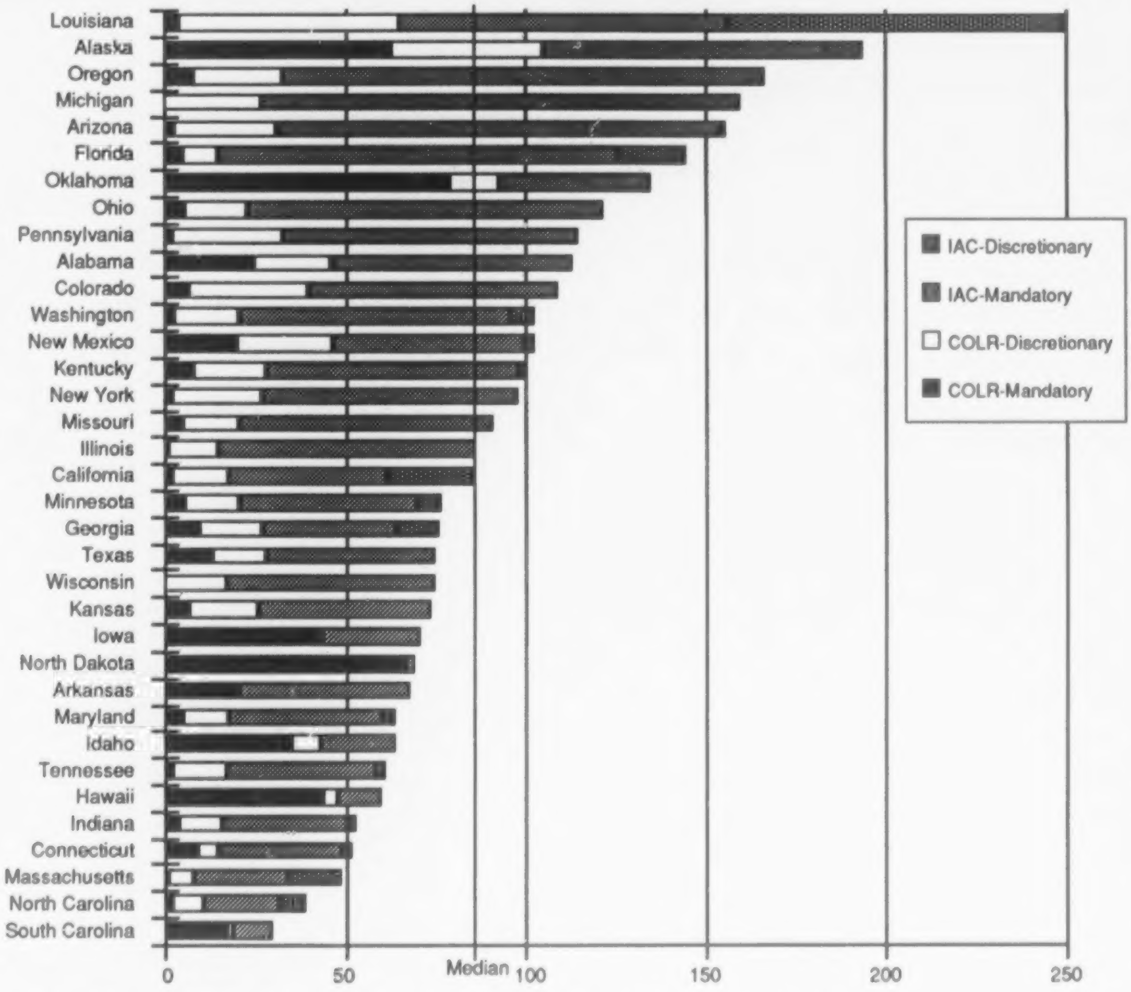
[9] This conclusion is based on a visual examination of Text Table II.1, corroborated by a statistical correlation. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the volume of appeals and state population is +.92. This indicates that states with the smallest populations have smaller caseloads and states with largest populations have larger caseloads.

CHART II.2: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Total Population (States with COLR and IAC), 1990



States that are not included: DC, DE, ME, MS, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NV, RI, SD, UT, VA, VT, WV, WY.
Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

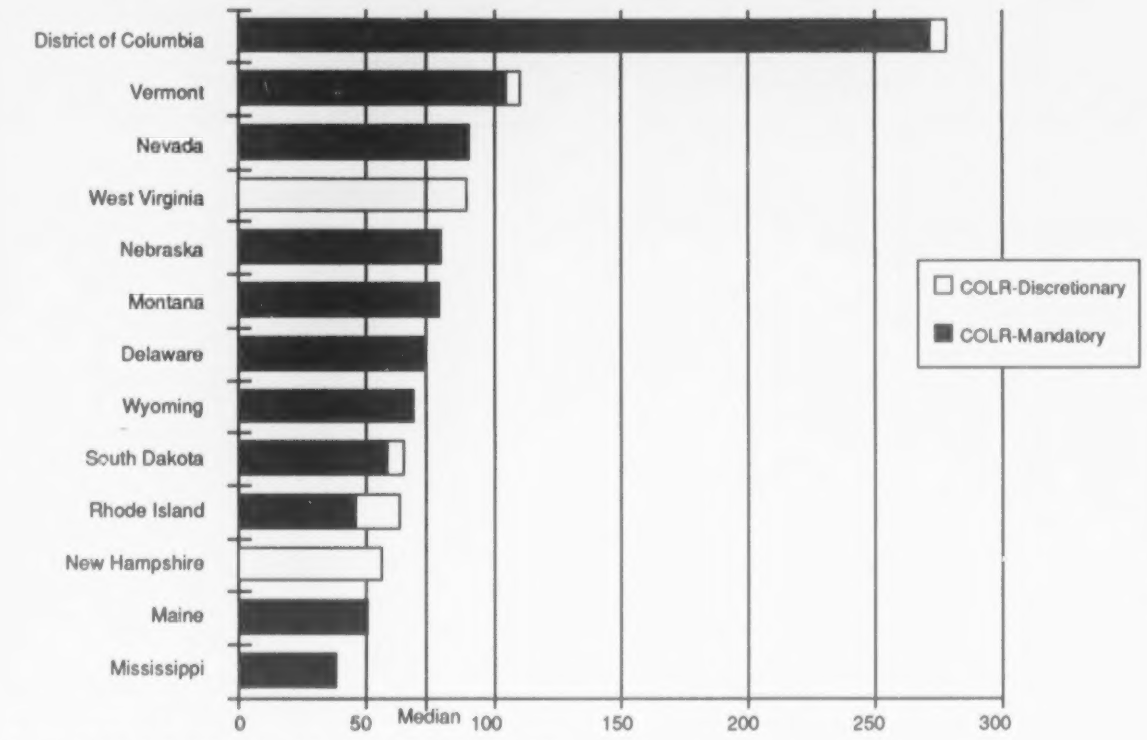
of mandatory appeals among those states in Chart II.2 that have the largest ratio of filings to population. The mandatory appeals in Chart II.2, however, are found in the IACs rather than the COLRs. This suggests that first-level appellate courts, whether they are COLRs without an IAC or IACs with large caseloads, are similar in caseload composition; they tend to have virtually all mandatory jurisdiction, and they handle the bulk of their respective state's appeals.

The Courts' Success in Keeping Up with Mandatory Appeals

The large volume of mandatory appeals in all first-level appellate courts, as well as their occurrence in several courts of last resort that have intermediate appellate courts, poses an important issue. Given that these appeals must be heard, how effective are the courts in responding to these demands?

One way to address this issue is by examining the relationship between the number of appeals filed and the number of appeals disposed of each year. Is there a disposition for every filing? A one-to-one correspondence indicates that the court is maintaining a balance between demand and output. **Text Table II.2** uses relevant information from Table 3, Part III (p. 84), to present clearance rates for each COLR and each IAC. The table also provides the clearance rate for each appellate court recorded in 1988 and 1989 as well as a three-year clearance rate to ascertain whether what is reported in 1990 reflects short- or long-term problems in

CHART II.3: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Total Population (States with COLR only), 1990



Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

the appellate courts. States are listed from lowest to highest three-year clearance rates.

A 1990 clearance rate for mandatory cases could be calculated for COLRs in 36 states and for the IACs in 36 states. COLRs in 18 states reduced their pending caseloads in 1990 (reporting clearance rates of 100 or greater). This is an improvement over 1988 and 1989. Examining the three-year clearance rates shows that the COLRs are having moderate success in keeping up with their mandatory caseloads: 19 of the 32 states for which a three-year rate could be calculated have a rate of 98 or greater.

Mandatory clearance rates reported by IACs are of more concern. Eight of the 36 states for which data are available report disposing of as many cases as were filed in 1990. The three-year clearance rates suggest that IACs are experiencing increasing difficulty with their caseloads; seven states had three-year rates of 100 or more. Furthermore, the clearance rate in 1990 was below the three-year rate in 21 of the 32 states for which a three-year rate could be calculated. This implies that the clearance rates in 1990 for mandatory cases tended to be below the average clearance rates based on the period from 1988 to 1990. While these data suggest that most IACs are experiencing a problem keeping up with mandatory appeals, they also indicate that states with rates of 100 or more (those keeping up with their caseloads or reducing them) are not limited to systems where there are the fewest appeals. On the contrary, the states with the greatest progress include California (a three-year clearance rate of 110) and New York (a three-year clearance rate of 117.9). Hence, the volume of appeals is not necessarily an impediment to a desirable clearance rate.

The Courts' Success in Keeping Up with Discretionary Petitions

The analysis of how appellate courts, including both courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts, are managing discretionary petitions presents a more positive picture than for mandatory appeals. Discretionary petitions constitute the bulk of the work load for courts of last resort, especially those in a two-tiered appellate system. As seen in **Text Table II.3**, the three-year clearance rates for 15 of the 29 COLRs for which a three-year rate could be calculated are 100 or better. Hence, as with mandatory appeals, discretionary petitions do not appear to be overwhelming every court of last resort.

Intermediate appellate courts are also meeting with success in disposing of discretionary petitions. Six of the 11 states for which data are available achieved three-year clearance rates of 100 or more (see Text Table II.3).

TEXT TABLE II.2: Appellate Court Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1988-90

Courts of Last Resort					Intermediate Appellate Courts				
State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate	State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Montana		98.6	98.6		Massachusetts			74.7	
Connecticut		108.0	101.4		Tennessee		96.1	89.2	
New Mexico		99.2	105.4		Utah		102.7	109.9	
Indiana		124.4	130.2		Georgia	86.1	81.2	64.4	77.1
Alabama	119.9	68.3	57.0	79.8	Arizona	83.0	90.2	81.5	84.7
Ohio	92.4	85.4	77.5	84.3	Indiana	93.0	88.0	84.3	87.8
Maine	96.0	83.7	76.4	84.9	Michigan	99.3	82.0	85.1	87.9
South Carolina	61.7	116.0	89.2	86.4	Oklahoma	89.2	97.4	78.5	88.5
Nebraska	99.2	85.3	80.5	87.7	Kentucky	84.2	89.9	95.9	89.9
Maryland	75.6	107.8	93.5	91.5	Idaho	71.4	104.5	94.9	90.0
Minnesota	92.3	97.6	92.2	93.9	Arkansas	92.0	90.6	92.7	91.8
Idaho	86.9	94.8	105.7	95.5	Washington	104.2	90.1	84.5	92.5
Rhode Island	98.3	87.0	102.4	95.9	North Carolina	94.2	86.2	97.0	92.5
Florida	104.7	90.3	96.4	96.6	Oregon	106.6	94.9	81.3	93.3
Mississippi	86.3	108.7	98.2	97.1	Louisiana	86.4	102.4	91.7	93.5
Delaware	86.1	92.8	114.5	97.8	Missouri	94.9	91.0	100.1	95.3
New Jersey	97.8	92.7	103.6	97.9	Illinois	94.2	94.9	97.1	95.4
Nevada	93.0	105.0	97.1	98.3	Alabama	101.6	91.3	94.5	95.5
Alaska	108.5	87.1	100.6	99.0	Maryland	100.5	98.4	90.1	96.1
Wyoming	93.6	113.1	91.4	99.2	Alaska	92.6	106.7	90.2	96.3
New York	113.9	89.4	95.0	99.5	Ohio	96.6	91.6	101.9	96.7
Arkansas	114.3	95.0	92.9	100.1	New Jersey	100.6	100.6	89.7	96.8
North Dakota	110.4	96.0	102.3	102.7	Hawaii	107.5	98.6	87.0	97.2
Arizona	70.5	83.6	176.1	103.0	Texas	96.8	95.5	100.9	97.6
Missouri	101.4	100.0	108.1	103.3	Minnesota	94.4	105.6	94.7	97.8
Vermont	95.7	100.8	116.1	104.0	New Mexico	106.5	95.4	95.7	98.7
Hawaii	85.2	115.2	117.5	104.2	South Carolina	119.5	84.2	99.2	98.8
District of Columbia	98.7	105.5	109.0	104.4	Iowa	91.9	117.8	89.1	99.1
Kentucky	117.1	100.3	98.9	105.0	Florida	95.5	101.1	100.8	99.1
Texas	99.1	108.6	109.0	105.1	Kansas	99.8	105.5	95.9	100.4
Louisiana	108.9	97.2	131.7	112.6	Wisconsin	110.3	102.5	91.6	100.5
North Carolina	144.9	87.2	87.9	110.2	Colorado	104.2	109.0	92.8	101.6
South Dakota	108.2	125.1	107.7	113.4	Connecticut	103.1	115.2	100.0	105.9
Washington	129.1	125.7	93.9	113.9	Pennsylvania	112.6	111.3	98.1	107.2
Kansas	132.3	162.0	161.8	147.0	California	96.6	120.3	112.1	110.0
Illinois	106.2	124.8	93.0	106.5	New York	118.7	120.1	114.8	117.9

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

Hence, most state IACs have not been experiencing the same degree of difficulty in disposing of discretionary petitions as they have encountered with mandatory appeals.

Discretionary Petitions Granted

The U.S. Supreme Court accepts for review about 5 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.[10] State COLRs tend to accept a larger percentage of petitions filed. On average during 1990, state COLRs granted 13 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.

That percentage is derived from **Text Table II.4**, which shows the number of petitions filed, and the number and the percentage granted, for the COLRs of 23 states. The percentage granted ranges from a low of 3.2 percent in Michigan to highs of 34.3 percent in West Virginia and 36.3 percent in Massachusetts. However, where an IAC has been established, the precise boundaries of the COLR's jurisdiction become important to understanding the flow of cases to the COLR and, possibly, the percentage of petitions that are granted. For example, the types of cases that would go to the IAC in Michigan are filed instead in the COLR in West Virginia, where no IAC has been established and the supreme court has full discretion over its docket.

IACs with discretionary jurisdiction tend to grant a higher percentage of petitions than is the practice in their state COLR or in COLRs generally. Table 2, Part III (p. 70), provides information on the percentage of discre-

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[10] Doris Marie Provine, *Certiorari*, in Encyclopedia of the American Judicial Process 783-84 (R. Janosik ed.).

TEXT TABLE II.3: Appellate Court Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions, 1988-90

Courts of Last Resort

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Connecticut	171.6		79.1	
Indiana		106.0	91.2	
Mississippi		74.4	92.2	
New Mexico		94.0	97.1	
New York	79.3	82.1	84.6	82.0
Ohio	91.6	81.4	75.5	82.7
Wisconsin	94.6	89.5	86.5	90.3
Kentucky	98.8	85.6	95.4	93.1
Michigan	84.7	87.5	109.9	93.6
Arizona	88.9	99.1	96.4	94.8
Louisiana	83.4	94.8	106.9	94.8
Illinois	95.1	95.3	94.7	95.0
New Hampshire	107.7	90.6	90.4	95.6
Minnesota	90.0	96.1	102.6	96.2
Florida	108.4	86.9	96.0	97.6
Oregon	101.6	103.4	89.4	98.0
California	93.1	105.4	96.1	98.1
Rhode Island	94.2	94.4	111.3	99.8
Hawaii	93.3	107.1	100.0	100.0
New Jersey	103.2	99.3	98.6	100.4
Virginia	115.0	114.4	76.5	100.5
North Carolina	114.3	88.8	96.0	100.9
Alaska	104.5	96.8	101.7	101.0
Maryland	113.8	90.8	97.1	101.1
Missouri	100.2	101.6	101.7	101.2
Texas	98.0	109.8	97.3	102.0
District of Columbia	106.6	100.0	100.0	102.6
Washington	111.5	101.0	99.1	104.1
West Virginia	109.5	105.5	97.7	104.3
Vermont	100.0	102.9	112.5	105.1
Idaho	110.5	96.7	111.7	105.7
Delaware	75.0	83.3	500.0	118.2
Alabama	78.8	137.0	143.9	121.2

Intermediate Appellate Courts

State	1988	1989	1990	Three-Year Clearance Rate
Connecticut			42.2	
Tennessee		77.6	67.1	
Massachusetts			100.0	
Indiana		93.8	103.6	
Florida	80.5	83.8	93.5	86.1
Arizona	105.0	101.9	67.5	88.2
Georgia	95.3	87.3	100.0	94.1
Minnesota	99.7	95.9	98.1	98.0
North Carolina	100.0	100.0	95.6	98.4
Louisiana	98.1	98.8	99.1	98.7
Maryland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Alaska	106.5	90.3	104.9	100.5
Washington	104.3	95.9	100.9	100.6
Kentucky	83.7	100.0	128.8	100.8
California	104.7	101.5	102.8	103.0
Virginia	112.6	116.7	136.3	121.9

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1992

tionary petitions granted in seven IACs: California Courts of Appeal, 10.4 percent; Indiana Court of Appeals, 40.2 percent; Louisiana Courts of Appeal, 31.9 percent; Maryland Court of Special Appeals, 9.3 percent; Minnesota Court of Appeals, 29.5 percent; New Mexico Court of Appeals, 23.9 percent; and North Carolina Court of Appeals, 11.8 percent. However, while with the exception of Maryland, the IACs grant a higher percentage of discretionary petitions filed than do their state COLRs, the comparison is inexact because the IAC discretionary jurisdiction is often over interlocutory matters, rather than appeals of final judgment.

Discretionary jurisdiction enables appellate courts to control their dockets. Although courts are generally selective in the petitions that are granted, this discretion is exercised differently across the states. IACs also exercise discretionary power differently than COLRs, reflecting their respective roles in state appellate systems and, perhaps, the greater likelihood that IACs will experience an expansion in the number of authorized judgeships in the face of rising caseloads.

Appellate Court Opinions in 1990

The preparation of full written opinions "has been called the single most time-consuming task in the appellate process."[11] Rising appellate caseloads have led both to curtailment of the issuance of full opinions to decide the bulk of cases and to concern over the availability of sufficient judicial time to prepare full opinions in particularly important cases.

Table 6, Part III (p. 102), presents the number of signed opinions issued by state appellate courts during 1990. The table also provides supplementary information about whether this count is by case or by written document and whether majority opinions, per curiam opinions, and memoranda/orders are included in the count. Information is also provided on the number of justices or judges serving on each court and the number of support staff with legal training that the court employs.

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11. Judicial Administration Division, American Bar Association, Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction 21 (1988).

The number of justices or judges is particularly significant and, as noted earlier, varies considerably from court to court.

The restricted size of COLRs and the nature of their responsibilities tend to limit the number of signed opinions to several hundred in a year in most jurisdictions (the U.S. Supreme Court typically decides about 150 cases a year by opinion).[12] Generally, courts can determine how they decide cases, whether by full explanatory opinion, per curiam opinion, or by order, and thus control their work load. Therefore, the number of signed opinions is not directly related to the number of cases decided by the court on the merits during 1990. Among COLRs, the number of signed opinions ranges from 66 in Texas to 703 in Alabama.

IACs vary considerably in the number of signed opinions issued during 1990. The highest number of opinions reported was 10,416 by the California Courts of Appeal. The IACs in Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas reported more than 3,000 signed opinions.

Appellate courts decide appeals in other ways that also state the facts of the case and reasons for the court's decision. These include memorandum decisions, which are signed, and per curiam opinions, which are not signed and generally very brief, but in some appellate courts they state the court's reasoning. What differentiates a signed opinion from a memorandum decision varies among appellate courts. All published opinions are designated memorandum decisions by some courts and are counted separately from the signed opinions shown in Table 6, Part III. Other courts merge memorandum decisions with the count of signed opinions. Therefore, despite their significance, statistics on opinions are the least comparable element to appellate court caseloads.

Appellate Court Caseload Trends

A trend analysis offers perspective on where state appellate courts stand at a time when there is ample cause for concern about their well-being. At the federal level, it has been asserted authoritatively that "a crisis of volume" afflicts the U.S. circuit courts of appeals.[13] The main cause is clear: while in the 1940s one trial court termination in 40 was the subject of an appeal, by the mid-1980s, one termination in 8 was contested through an appeal.[14] The result is an avalanche of cases in such numbers that it is asserted that only major structural reform will allow the federal appellate system to survive into the next century.

TEXT TABLE II.4: Discretionary Petitions Granted as a Percentage of Total Discretionary Cases Filed in COLRs, 1990

State	Number of Petitions Filed	Number of Petitions Granted	Percentage of Petitions Granted
Alaska	231	32	13.9
Connecticut	196	28	14.3
Georgia	1,079	163	15.1
Hawaii	43	10	23.3
Illinois	1,582	136	8.6
Kansas	461	34	7.4
Louisiana	2,684	881	32.8
Maryland	626	113	18.1
Massachusetts	444	161	36.3
Michigan	2,507	81	3.2
Minnesota	662	105	15.9
Mississippi	64	5	7.8
Missouri	809	75	9.3
New Mexico	414	31	7.5
North Carolina	626	59	9.4
Ohio	1,872	163	8.7
Oregon	791	101	12.8
Pennsylvania	3,645	246	6.7
Tennessee	731	48	6.6
Texas	2,587	286	11.1
Virginia	1,775	259	14.6
West Virginia	1,623	556	34.3
Wisconsin	842	116	13.8

Source: Tables 2, 4, and 5, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

At the state level, observers note a similar crisis, since "state appellate court caseloads have, on average, doubled every ten years since the Second World War," implying an average annual increase of 8 percent in caseload volume.[15] Moreover, appellate courts are not merely confronting more of the same; rather, "as the number of cases has grown, so has the range of complexity. Increasing numbers of complex cases, especially death penalty litigation, require substantial expenditure of judicial time."[16] Volume and complexity combined to bring an IAC into being in many states during the 1970s and to make the 1980s a period of significant institutional innovation, notably through streamlined appellate procedures, settlement conferences, and alternatives to full appellate review.

Appellate court caseload growth has been clearly on the rise. Between 1984 and 1990, the number of mandatory appeals filed in COLRs increased by 12 percent, and the number of discretionary petitions filed increased by 6 percent. Mandatory appeals filed in IACs grew by 18 percent and discretionary petitions by 36 percent over those seven years. Over this period, population grew by just over 5 percent.

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[12] In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court disposed of 121 cases by signed opinion and four cases by per curiam opinion (statistics supplied by the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts).

[13] Federal Courts Study Committee, Judicial Conference of the United States, Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee ch. 6 (1990).

[14] *Id.* at 110.

[15] Judicial Administration Division, *supra* note 11, at 11.

[16] Rita M. Novak and Douglas K. Somerlot, Delay on Appeal (1990).

The purpose of this section is to compare each individual state appellate system by examining caseload levels over time. How does the level in one year compare to the preceding year? How do the levels in each of several years compare to a benchmark point? Changes are measured through index numbers created by setting the 1984 caseload at 100. The actual number of mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions can be found in Table 13, Part III, and Table 14, Part III, respectively. The overall change in population experienced by the state is also expressed as an index with the 1984 population set at 100 to allow a simple test of whether filings are growing at a faster rate than state population.

Trends in Mandatory Appeals

Text Tables II.5 and II.6 report the index scores for the two basic types of appellate systems. From **Text Table II.5**, it can be seen that the indexed number of mandatory appeals in 23 of 38 COLRs was higher in 1990 than in 1984; decreases occurred in 15 COLRs. Most increases represent a 10 percent or greater rise in the number of cases, with the average increase for a COLR being 28 percent. The rising trend in COLR filings is found primarily in those states where there is no IAC. Data presented in Text Table II.5 show that 7 of the 11 courts of last resort without an intermediate appellate court had consistently positive index scores. Particularly rapid mandatory caseload growth since 1984, however, is only evident in a few states: 135 percent in California, 69 percent in Illinois, and 103 percent in Ohio.

IAC caseloads changed in a more consistent manner between 1984 and 1990.

Twenty-seven of 33 IACs included in **Text Table II.6** recorded an increase, all but 3 in excess of 10 percent. The average rate of increase for an IAC was 28 percent. It appears, therefore, that mandatory caseload trends across IACs are more similar than those across COLRs.

This is confirmed by analyzing the year-to-year changes in mandatory filings for individual COLRs since 1984. These changes rarely form an unambiguous trend either upward or downward. For example, the largest number of filings in 1990 is found for only 9 out of the 23 COLRs that recorded an overall increase over the seven-year period; 8 recorded their largest caseload in 1989, and 9 in 1988. In the 15 COLRs where the overall change was a decrease, fewer than half of them (7) had their highest number of filings in 1984.

By contrast, among IACs, the peak caseload occurred in 1990 for 18 of the 27 IACs in which an overall increase took place across the seven years. These 18 include courts that are experiencing filing growth that, if continued, will soon result in caseloads double their 1984 size (e.g., Arizona, Indiana, and Oklahoma). Although the trends in filing rates in most IACs are clearly increasing, they are rarely the product of consistent yearly growth over the period; only the IAC in Colorado conforms to a steady seven-year upward trend. A pattern of year-to-year fluctuations is particularly evident for states in which all cases reach the IAC by assignment from the COLR: Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, and South Carolina.

Consequently, COLRs and IACs face caseloads that vary significantly from year to year in ways that it would be difficult for the court to anticipate and make provisions for (e.g., increasing the number of judges or support staff). That phenomenon is somewhat more prevalent among COLRs, but it applies to many IACs as well. Beyond the problems associated with rising case volume, uncertainty over the extent of yearly caseload growth represents a substantial challenge to many courts.

Several factors underlie the trend data differences between COLRs and IACs. First, COLR mandatory jurisdiction is typically quite restricted in states with an IAC, leading to a small number of appeals in some states. Small caseloads are more sensitive to changes that appear large when expressed as a percentage. For example, the 1990 index number of 61 for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court represents 141 case filings in 1984 and 86 filings in 1990. Six of the 38 COLRs had less than 200 case filings in 1984, the base year. Second, COLRs have coped with rising dockets by transferring jurisdiction over some types of appeals to IACs. COLRs in some states assign cases to the IAC, and COLRs in other states can transfer cases to the IAC. Third, COLRs can control their caseloads by issuing court rules or promoting legislation that shifts cases, especially appeals of right, to IACs.

Trends in Discretionary Petitions

Discretionary petitions account for two out of every three cases filed in COLRs between 1984-90 but form a relatively insignificant share of the IAC's caseload in most states. Changes in discretionary case filings of COLRs can be traced in **Text Table II.7**, while IAC trends are shown in Text Table II.8. Both text tables are based on the detailed case filing information in Table 14, Part III, which is also the authoritative source on the status of each court's caseload numbers relative to the model reporting categories recommended by COSCA.

There is greater variability among courts at both levels in discretionary petitions than in mandatory appeals. Thirty-four COLRs are considered in Text Table II.7. Of these, 24 report increases (all but 8 of more than 10 percent), and 10 report decreases (7 greater than 10 percent) between 1984 and 1990. The largest increase was in the New Mexico Supreme Court, where the number of case filings more than doubled over the seven years.

IACs split between those with increases and those with decreases over the seven-year period, and the overall change is often substantial. Trend data could be obtained for 11 IACs and are displayed in **Text Table II.8**. Six courts show an overall increase, and 5 show a decrease. The number of petitions filed in the Louisiana Court of Appeals, for example, more than doubled over the seven years. Expressed in terms of the absolute

TEXT TABLE II.5: Trends in Total Mandatory Cases Filed, 1984-90

	Courts of Last Resort							
State	Mandatory Filings Index 1984	Mandatory Filings Index 1985	Mandatory Filings Index 1986	Mandatory Filings Index 1987	Mandatory Filings Index 1988	Mandatory Filings Index 1989	Mandatory Filings Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
	States with one COLR and at least one IAC							
Alabama	100	107	111	134	111	122	134	101
Alaska	100	104	99	115	113	107	108	110
Arizona	100	77	112	110	107	151	88	120
Arkansas	100	92	86	96	84	92	101	100
California	100	128	106	142	144	171	235	116
Colorado	100	78	90	84	77	80	89	104
Florida	100	102	107	99	87	109	105	118
Georgia	100	104	93	97	96	102	104	111
Hawaii	100	105	128	131	152	138	103	107
Idaho	100	100	83	83	109	105	100	101
Illinois	100	142	185	149	233	130	169	99
Kansas	100	105	112	127	205	106	98	102
Kentucky	100	128	114	118	117	138	127	99
Louisiana	100	54	76	92	84	73	56	95
Maryland	100	99	108	106	110	93	119	110
Massachusetts	100	91	61	51	68	53	61	104
Michigan	100	60	80	100	80	80	40	102
New Jersey	100	62	64	95	97	112	105	103
New Mexico	100	94	101	99	92	114	92	106
North Carolina	100	97	108	79	64	47	50	108
Ohio	100	131	145	125	148	158	203	101
Oklahoma	100	143	100	140	103	109	131	95
Oregon	100	88	71	86	94	106	95	106
Pennsylvania	100	53	34	30	45	36	84	100
South Carolina	100	94	108	107	130	97	126	106
Texas	100	102	113	125	183	179	116	106
Washington	100	85	71	59	51	44	65	112
	States with no intermediate appellate court							
Delaware	100	123	126	120	143	156	146	109
District of Columbia	100	98	86	83	90	84	91	97
Mississippi	100	97	121	106	110	92	115	99
Nebraska	100	100	101	119	110	149	127	98
Nevada	100	97	107	107	124	125	136	132
North Dakota	100	91	102	103	99	107	116	93
Rhode Island	100	99	95	79	100	111	114	104
South Dakota	100	104	106	123	124	113	117	99
Utah	100	98	97	74	69	78	88	104
Vermont	100	92	88	86	100	99	95	106
Wyoming	100	92	103	97	108	97	95	89

Source: Table 13, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

number of petitions, that increase is daunting: 1,842 petitions were filed with the court in 1984 and 3,980 in 1990. The number of petitions is so great as to overwhelm the trends in other states. If Louisiana is excluded from the calculation of the growth in IAC discretionary petitions, the increase drops from 36 percent to 20 percent.

The trends suggest that discretionary cases are becoming an increasingly important component of the caseloads of some IACs. Discretionary cases increased at rates similar to mandatory appeals in the IACs of Arizona, California, Florida, and Washington. In other states, however, the dominant pattern was the variability from one year to the next. As with discretionary and

TEXT TABLE II.6: Trends in Total Mandatory Cases Filed, 1984-90

	Intermediate Appellate Courts							
State	Mandatory Filings Index 1984	Mandatory Filings Index 1985	Mandatory Filings Index 1986	Mandatory Filings Index 1987	Mandatory Filings Index 1988	Mandatory Filings Index 1989	Mandatory Filings Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Alabama (Court of Civil Appeals)	100	103	100	110	99	105	122	101
Alabama (Court of Criminal Appeals)	100	109	110	121	127	152	146	101
Alaska	100	96	108	100	93	87	92	110
Arizona	100	103	122	125	142	140	163	120
Arkansas	100	99	111	111	105	126	128	100
California	100	101	99	99	108	114	129	116
Colorado	100	103	118	122	123	127	144	103
Connecticut	100	69	70	69	73	72	81	104
Florida	100	104	115	118	121	118	122	117
Georgia	100	94	129	100	111	114	115	110
Hawaii	100	131	131	133	119	139	137	106
Idaho	100	102	119	124	155	151	147	100
Illinois	100	107	106	111	114	114	115	99
Indiana	100	90	93	100	106	132	171	100
Iowa	100	128	97	109	128	119	131	95
Kansas	100	104	109	108	113	111	115	101
Kentucky	100	116	102	99	98	100	94	98
Louisiana	100	92	95	99	103	92	99	94
Maryland	100	92	93	96	99	104	113	109
Massachusetts	100	95	98	104	101	106	114	103
Missouri	100	111	110	107	116	128	125	102
New Jersey	100	97	98	101	104	104	113	102
New Mexico	100	116	117	106	113	136	139	106
North Carolina	100	105	105	96	103	105	107	107
Ohio	100	101	103	106	107	115	114	100
Oklahoma	100	81	123	118	173	174	168	95
Oregon	100	104	108	112	98	99	120	106
Pennsylvania (Superior Court)	100	101	103	106	111	104	109	99
Pennsylvania (Commonwealth Court)	100	89	93	76	79	78	87	99
South Carolina	100	97	87	109	76	111	92	105
Texas	100	108	106	106	112	119	109	106
Washington	100	114	123	113	110	112	127	111
Wisconsin	100	105	92	98	96	105	127	102

Source: Table 13, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

mandatory COLR filings, it would be difficult to use the previous year's change in an IAC's discretionary caseload as a reliable guide to what will occur in the next year.

Appellate caseload trends, such as those just examined, are often shaped by changes in jurisdiction. An abrupt rise or decline in the filings of a court in a two-tier appellate system may reflect the transfer of jurisdiction between the COLR and IAC. A common transfer in recent years has shifted appeals involving a sentence of life imprisonment from the COLR to the IAC. In other states, however, this shift has been in the reverse direction, with all mandatory appeals of convictions for offenses such as first-degree homicide now falling within the jurisdiction of the COLR. More generally, sentencing reform can expand the role of a state's appellate courts, especially IACs, in the review of sentences.

Changes to state constitutions and statutes governing civil law can also have an impact. In Pennsylvania mandatory jurisdiction over appeals of decisions by certain administrative agencies shifted in 1983 from the COLR to the commonwealth court, one of the state's two IACs. The COLR's review became discretionary. Court rules or policies can also change in ways that redistribute appellate jurisdiction, particularly in those states in which

TEXT TABLE II.7: Trends in Total Discretionary Cases Filed, 1984-90

	Courts of Last Resort							
State	Discretionary Filings Index 1984	Discretionary Filings Index 1985	Discretionary Filings Index 1986	Discretionary Filings Index 1987	Discretionary Filings Index 1988	Discretionary Filings Index 1989	Discretionary Filings Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
States with one COLR and at least one IAC								
Alabama	100	85	107	100	107	113	122	101
Alaska	100	88	142	99	110	114	105	110
Arizona	100	114	114	98	100	99	103	120
California	100	109	120	114	109	106	116	116
Colorado	100	94	96	93	101	122	132	104
Florida	100	111	104	120	125	105	123	118
Georgia	100	104	104	107	106	117	115	111
Hawaii	100	128	134	178	141	131	134	107
Idaho	100	153	128	137	127	152	128	101
Illinois	100	94	98	100	93	93	94	99
Kentucky	100	82	86	70	70	76	76	99
Louisiana	100	109	115	126	136	131	126	95
Maryland	100	94	80	86	90	79	82	110
Massachusetts	100	107	118	27	45	48	36	104
Michigan	100	88	87	89	113	120	107	102
New Jersey	100	92	121	121	119	130	107	103
New Mexico	100	89	116	201	170	210	238	106
North Carolina	100	115	136	125	118	83	116	108
Ohio	100	96	102	108	104	99	110	101
Oklahoma	100	76	88	76	76	114	115	95
Oregon	100	104	114	125	99	81	91	106
Texas (Supreme Court)	100	103	109	104	110	100	107	106
Texas (Court of Criminal Appeals)	100	106	106	105	111	140	108	106
Virginia	100	54	62	75	75	82	93	110
Washington	100	103	102	131	108	93	101	112
Wisconsin	100	106	116	121	127	125	117	103
States with no inturmediate appellate court								
Delaware	100	60	60	80	80	120	20	109
District of Columbia	100	95	89	113	72	58	53	97
New Hampshire	100	95	89	86	84	97	104	114
Rhode Island	100	143	83	108	94	89	88	104
South Dakota	100	63	119	100	130	144	181	99
Utah	100	58	71	42	85	50	67	104
Vermont	100	76	96	124	128	136	128	106
West Virginia	100	107	124	159	126	128	127	92

Source: Table 14, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

the COLR assigns cases to the IAC or has significant authority to transfer cases.

Caseload growth continues to outstrip judicial resources. The number of COLR justices has remained constant since 1984; although the number of IAC judges has grown by about 10 percent, this still falls short of the rise in case filings. Thus, caseloads per judge continue to rise at both appellate levels. It is not known, however, whether these recent cases tend to be more difficult or demanding on judge time than the appeals and petitions filed in previous decades.

Summary

The data contained in this *Report* suggest that state courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts operate under conditions of high caseload volume. Although only particular state COLRs and IACs continue to

TEXT TABLE II.8: Trends in Total Discretionary Cases Filed, 1984-90

	Intermediate Appellate Courts							
State	Discretionary Filings Index 1984	Discretionary Filings Index 1985	Discretionary Filings Index 1986	Discretionary Filings Index 1987	Discretionary Filings Index 1988	Discretionary Filings Index 1989	Discretionary Filings Index 1990	Total Population Growth 1984 to 1990
Alaska	100	102	132	86	98	98	97	110
Arizona	100	80	98	102	120	104	166	120
California	100	102	107	115	120	119	124	116
Florida	100	100	116	116	116	115	125	117
Georgia	100	103	104	118	115	130	127	110
Kentucky	100	122	119	114	116	113	75	98
Louisiana	100	138	164	192	210	227	216	94
Maryland	100	62	78	95	71	75	66	109
New Mexico	100	119	91	100	112	77	81	106
North Carolina	100	103	116	103	95	82	96	107
Washington	100	122	141	132	141	121	133	111

Source: Table 14, Part III, National Center for State Courts, 1992

experience the rapid growth found in earlier decades, increases in caseload remain substantial. The caseload level nationally in 1990 was approximately 4 percent greater than it was in 1989. Moreover, the larger caseloads, both mandatory and discretionary, that a majority of appellate courts experienced in 1990 were part of a larger trend between 1984 and 1990. However, it is important to note that these increases are not uniform, occurring in some areas and not in others.

- Mandatory appeals substantially increased from 1984 to 1990 in most first-level appellate courts—whether intermediate appellate courts or courts of last resort without an intermediate appellate court.
- Discretionary petitions grew consistently from 1984 to 1990 in a majority of both courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts, although there are a limited number of IACs for which data are available.

The consequence of these increases over time is a pronounced inability of appellate courts to keep up. Most simply do not dispose of as many mandatory appeals each year as are filed, as reflected clearly in the number of courts with three-year clearance rates below 100:

- Two-thirds of the intermediate appellate courts had three-year clearance rates of less than 100 for mandatory appeals.
- More than half of the courts of last resort had three-year clearance rates for mandatory appeals of less than 100.

Difficulties disposing of discretionary cases are not as pronounced. A majority of courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts are producing as many dispositions as the number of filings for discretionary petitions. However, these successful courts still constitute only very small majorities. Hence, the conclusion is unambiguous that caseload pressures continue to confront state appellate courts and that many are having difficulty keeping up.

PART 3

1990 STATE COURT CASELOAD TABLES

TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1990

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
Courts of last resort:		
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	19,706	16,327
Number of courts reporting complete data	41	32
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions	3,749	3,922
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	5	7
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete	1,965	1,567
Number of courts reporting incomplete data	4	4
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:		
A. Number of reported complete petitions	40,909	32,011
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	39	30
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	3,592
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	3
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete	3,906	4,123
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions	5	6
Intermediate appellate courts:		
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	97,038	85,164
Number of courts reporting complete data	35	29
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions	51,793	58,180
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	7	12
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete	0	0
Number of courts reporting incomplete data	0	0
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:		
A. Number of reported complete petitions	18,941	19,257
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	19	16
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	0
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	0
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete	0	36
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions	0	1

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TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

Summary section for all appellate courts:

		Reported filings	
	COLR	IAC	Total
A. Number of reported complete cases/petitions	60,615	115,979	176,594
B. Number of reported complete cases/petitions that include other case types	3,749	51,793	55,542
C. Number of reported cases/petitions that are incomplete	5,871	0	5,871
Total	70,235	167,772	238,007

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed Number	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed Filed per judge	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted Number	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted Filed per judge
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	347	231	32	578	116	379	76
Court of Appeals	429	61	NA	490	163		
State Total	776	292		1,068	134		
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	92	1,044 B	NA	1,136	227		
Court of Appeals	4,491	83	NA	4,574	218		
State Total	4,583	1,127 *		5,710	220		
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	482 C	(C)	NA	482	69		
Court of Appeals	1,096	NJ	NJ	1,096	183	1,096	183
State Total	1,578 *			1,578	121		
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	522	4,622	150 A	5,144	735	672	96
Courts of Appeal	13,012	7,236	753	20,248	23[illegible]	13,765	156
State Total	13,534	11,858	903 *	25,392	267	14,437	152
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	228	1,072	NA	1,300	186		
Court of Appeals	2,269	NJ	NJ	2,269	142	2,269	142
State Total	2,497	1,072		3,569	155		
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	281	196	28	477	68	309	44
Appellate Court	1,107	109	56	1,216	135	1,163	129
State Total	1,388	305	84	1,693	106	1,472	92
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	617	1,303	NA	1,920	274		
District Courts of Appeal	14,386	2,457	NA	16,843	295		
State Total	15,003	3,760		18,763	293		
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	690	1,079	163	1,769	253	853	122
Court of Appeals	2,384 B	794	(B)	3,178	353	2,384	265
State Total	3,074 *	1,873		4,947	309	3,237	202

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
349	235	NA	584		COLR	1
387	64	NA	451		IAC	1
736	299		1,035			
162	1,006	0	1,168	162	COLR	6
3,659	56	NA	3,715		IAC	6
3,821	1,062		4,883			
448 C	(C)	NA	448		COLR	2
1,016	NJ	NJ	1,016	1,016	IAC	2
1,464 *			1,464			
20 A	4,442	3,252	4,462	3,272	COLR	6
14,584	7,438	NA	22,022		IAC	2
14,604 *	11,880		26,484			
(B)	1,261 B	NA	1,261		COLR	1
2,105	NJ	NJ	2,105	2,105	IAC	1
	1,261 *		3,366			
285	155	NA	440		COLR	1
1,107	46	NA	1,153		IAC	1
1,392	201		1,593			
595	1,251	NA	1,846		COLR	1
14,503	2,297	NA	16,800		IAC	1
15,098	3,548		18,646			
(B)	1,559 B	NA	1,559		COLR	2
1,535	794	(B)	2,329	1,535	IAC	2
	2,353 *		3,888			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

TOTAL CASES FILED

State/Court name:	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	486	43	10	529	106	496	99
Intermediate Court of Appeals	138	NJ	NJ	138	46	138	46
State Total	624	43	10	667	83	634	79
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	349	77	NA	426	85		
Court of Appeals	215	NJ	NJ	215	72	215	72
State Total	564	77		641	80		
ILLINOIS **							
Supreme Court	199	1,582	87	1,781	254	286	41
Appellate Court	8,191 B	(B)	NA	8,191	164		
State Total	8,390 *			9,972	175		
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	199	690	NA	889	178		
Court of Appeals	1,966	112	45	2,078	160	2,011	155
State Total	2,165	802		2,967	165		
IOWA							
Supreme Court	1,211	NA	NA				
Court of Appeals	743	NJ	NJ	743	124	743	124
State Total	1,954						
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	165	461	34	626	89	199	28
Court of Appeals	1,201 B	(B)	NA	1,201	120		
State Total	1,366 *			1,827	107		
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	281	753 A	NA	1,034	148		
Court of Appeals	2,569	59	NA	2,628	188		
State Total	2,850	812 *		3,662	174		
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	82	2,684	881	2,766	395	963	138
Courts of Appeal	3,835	3,980	1,268	7,815	163	5,103	106
State Total	3,917	6,664	2,149	10,581	192	6,066	110

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
571	43	NA	614		COLR	2
120	NJ	NJ	120	120	IAC	2
691	43		734			
369	86	NA	455		COLR	1
204	NJ	NJ	204	204	IAC	4
573	86		659			
185	1,498	96	1,683	281	COLR	1
7,951 B	(B)	NA	7,951		IAC	1
8,136 *			9,634			
259	629	60	888	319	COLR	6
1,657	116	49	1,773	1,706	IAC	6
1,916	745	109	2,661	2,025		
947 B	311 A	78	1,258	1,025	COLR	1
662	NJ	NJ	662	662	IAC	4
1,609 *	311 *	78	1,920	1,687		
267	NA	NA			COLR	5
1,152 B	(B)	NA	1,152		IAC	5
1,419 *						
278	718 A	NA	996		COLR	6
2,463	76	NA	2,539		IAC	3
2,741	794 *		3,535			
108	2,870	921	2,978	1,029	COLR	2
3,517	3,945	1,246	7,462	4,763	IAC	2
3,625	6,815	2,167	10,440	5,792		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	TOTAL CASES FILED						
				Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
State/Court name:	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	261	626	113	887	127	374	53
Court of Special Appeals	2,006	204	19	2,210	170	2,025	156
State Total	2,267	830	132	3,097	155	2,399	120
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	86	444	161	530	76	247	35
Appeals Court	1,568	916	NA	2,484	177		
State Total	1,654	1,360		3,014	144		
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	2	2,507	81	2,509	358	83	12
Court of Appeals	12,340 B	(B)	NA	12,340	514		
State Total	12,342 *			14,849	479		
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	282	662	105	944	135	387	55
Court of Appeals	2,157	312	92	2,469	165	2,249	150
State Total	2,439	974	197	3,413	155	2,636	120
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	247	809	63	1,056	151	310	44
Court of Appeals	3,565	NJ	NJ	3,565	111	3,565	111
State Total	3,812	809	63	4,621	118	3,875	99
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	387	1,217 A	162 A	1,604	229	549	78
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	7,007	NA	NA				
State Total	7,394						
NEW MEXICO***							
Supreme Court	297	414	31	711	142	328	66
Court of Appeals	797	46	11	843	120	808	115
State Total	1,094	460	42	1,554	130	1,136	95
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	116	626	59	742	106	175	25
Court of Appeals	1,408	451	53	1,859	155	1,461	122
State Total	1,524	1,077	112	2,601	137	1,636	86

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
244	608	NA	852		COLR	2
1,808	204	NA	2,012		IAC	2
2,052	812		2,864			
(B)	NA	259 B		259	COLR	2
1,171	916	NA	2,087		IAC	2
(B)	2,755	NA	2,755		COLR	1
10,503 B	(B)	NA	10,503		IAC	1
			13,258			
260	679	105	939	365	COLR	1
2,042	306	90	2,348	2,132	IAC	1
2,302	985	195	3,287	2,497		
267	823	78	1,090	345	COLR	1
3,568	NJ	NJ	3,568	3,568	IAC	1
3,835	823	78	4,658	3,913		
401	1,200 A	NA	1,601		COLR	1
6,284	NA	(B)		6,284	IAC	1
6,685						
313	402	NJ	715	313	COLR	5
763 B	(B)	NA	763		IAC	5
1,076			1,478			
102	601	54	703	156	COLR	2
1,366	431	NA	1,797		IAC	2
1,468	1,032		2,500			

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TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	TOTAL CASES FILED						
				Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
State/Court name:	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	429	NJ	NJ	429	86	429	86
Court of Appeals	13	NJ	NJ	13	4	13	4
State Total	442	0	0	442	55	442	55
OHIO							
Supreme Court	685	1,872	163	2,557	365	848	121
Court of Appeals	10,721	NJ	NJ	10,721	182	10,721	182
State Total	11,406	1,872	163	13,278	201	11,569	175
OREGON							
Supreme Court	194	791	82	985	141	276	39
Court of Appeals	4,584	NJ	NJ	4,584	458	4,584	458
State Total	4,778	791	82	5,569	328	4,860	286
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	602	61	61	663	133	663	133
Court of Appeals	370	NJ	NJ	370	62	370	62
State Total	972	61	61	1,033	94	1,033	94
UTAH							
Supreme Court	566	48	NA	614	123		
Court of Appeals	629	NA	NA				
State Total	1,195						
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	13	1,775	267	1,788	255	280	40
Court of Appeals	464	1,570	354 A	2,034	203	818	82
State Total	477	3,345	621 *	3,822	225	1,098	65
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	148 B	891 A	NA	1,039	115		
Court of Appeals	3,653	351	NA	4,004	236		
State Total	3,801 *	1,242 *		5,043	194		
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	NJ	842	116	842	120	116	17
Court of Appeals	2,853	NA	NA				
State Total	2,853						

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
439	NJ	NJ	439	439	COLR	1
7	NJ	NJ	7	7	IAC	
446	0	0	446	446		
531	1,413	137	1,944	668	COLR	1
10,928	NJ	NJ	10,928	10,928	IAC	1
11,459	1,413	137	12,872	11,596		
271 B	707	(B)	978	271	COLR	1
3,725	NJ	NJ	3,725	3,725	IAC	1
3,996 *	707		4,703	3,996		
537	NA	NA			COLR	2
367	NJ	NJ	367	367	IAC	4
904						
556 B	(B)	NA	556		COLR	1
691 B	(B)	NA	691		IAC	1
1,247 *			1,247			
13	1,357	NA	1,370		COLR	1
(B)	2,140 B	NA	2,140		IAC	1
	3,497 *		3,510			
139 B	883 A	17	1,022	156	COLR	6
3,086	354	NA	3,440		IAC	6
3,225 *	1,237 *		4,462			
NJ	728	77	728	77	COLR	6
2,612	NA	NA			IAC	6
2,612						

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TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	TOTAL CASES FILED						
				Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
State/Court name:	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
	States with no intermediate appellate court						
DELAWARE Supreme Court	483 B	1 A	NA	484	97		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Court of Appeals	1,650	45	NA	1,695	188		
MAINE Supreme Judicial Court	622 C	(C)	NA	622	89		
MISSISSIPPI Supreme Court	961	64	5	1,025	114	966	107
MONTANA Supreme Court	633 A	NJ	NA	633	90		
NEBRASKA Supreme Court	1,270 B	(B)	NA	1,270	181		
NEVADA Supreme Court	1,089	NJ	NJ	1,089	218	1,089	218
NEW HAMPSHIRE Supreme Court	NJ	627	NA	627	125		
RHODE ISLAND Supreme Court	465	177	NA	642	128		
SOUTH DAKOTA Supreme Court	403 B	49	NA	452	90		
VERMONT Supreme Court	590	32	NA	622	124		
WEST VIRGINIA Supreme Court of Appeals	NJ	1,623	556	1,623	325	556	111
WYOMING Supreme Court	314	NJ	NJ	314	63	314	63

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
553 B	5 A	NA	558		COLR	1
1,753	45	NA	1,798		COLR	1
475 C	(C)	NA	475		COLR	1
944	59	0	1,003	944	COLR	2
624 A	NJ	NA	624		COLR	1
1,022 B	(B)	NA	1,022		COLR	1
1,057	NJ	NJ	1,057	1,057	COLR	2
NJ	567	NA	567		COLR	1
476	197	NA	673		COLR	1
434 B	(B)	NA	434		COLR	2
685	36	NA	721		COLR	1
NJ	1,586	647	1,586	647	COLR	1
287	NJ	NJ	287	287	COLR	1

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TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	TOTAL CASES FILED						
				Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
State/Court name:	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	998	867	NA	1,865	207		
Court of Civil Appeals	651	NJ	NJ	651	217	651	217
Court of Criminal Appeals	2,042	NJ	NJ	2,042	408	2,042	408
State Total	3,691	867		4,558	268		
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	302	4,499	NA	4,801	686		
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	10,577 B	(B)	NA	10,577	225		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	2,245 B	(B)	NA	2,245	150		
State Total	13,124 *			17,623	255		
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	1,033	446	NA	1,479	164		
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,445 B	(B)	99	1,445	289	1,544	309
Court of Appeals	1,323	NJ	NJ	1,323	110	1,323	110
State Total	3,801 *			4,247	163		
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	225	3,645 C	246 C	3,870	553	471	67
Superior Court	6,291	NJ	NJ	6,291	419	6,291	419
Commonwealth Court	3,491	36	NA	3,527	392		
State Total	10,007	3,681 *		13,688	442		
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	107	731	48	838	168	155	31
Court of Criminal Appeals	980	55	14	1,035	115	994	110
Court of Appeals	1,002	109	27	1,111	93	1,029	86
State Total	2,089	895	89	2,984	115	2,178	84
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	3	1,207	84	1,210	134	87	10
Court of Criminal Appeal	2,281	1,380	202	3,661	407	2,483	276
Courts of Appeals	8,062	NJ	NJ	8,062	101	8,062	101
State Total	10,346	2,587	286	12,933	132	10,632	108

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
569	1,248	NA	1,817		COLR	1
641	NJ	NJ	641	641	IAC	1
1,904	NJ	NJ	1,904	1,904	IAC	1
3,114	1,248		4,362			
287	3,808	192	4,095	479	COLR	1
12,540 B	(B)	NA	12,540		IAC	2
2,179 B	(B)	NA	2,179		IAC	2
15,006 *			18,814			
NA	NA	NA			COLR	1
774	412	99	1,186	873	COLR	2
1,038	NJ	NJ	1,038	1,038	IAC	4
NA	NA	NA			COLR	6
6,079	NJ	NJ	6,079	6,079	IAC	1
3,519 B	NJ	NA	3,519		IAC	1
(B)	772 B	NA	772		COLR	1
843 B	36 A	NA	879		IAC	1
924 B	74	NA	998		IAC	1
	882 *		2,649			
3	1,166	116	1,169	119	COLR	1
2,487	1,352	255	3,839	2,742	COLR	5
8,134	NJ	NJ	8,134	8,134	IAC	1
10,624	2,518	371	13,142	10,995		

Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort
IAC = Intermediate appellate court

POINTS AT WHICH CASES ARE COUNTED:

1 = At the notice of appeal
2 = At the filing of trial record
3 = At the filing of trial record and complete briefs
4 = At transfer
5 = Other
6 = Varies

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.
— = Inapplicable

( ) = **Mandatory** and **discretionary jurisdiction** cases cannot be separately identified. Data are reported within the jurisdiction where the court has the majority of its caseload.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

**Total mandatory cases filed and disposed in the Illinois Supreme Court do not include the miscellaneous record cases.
***Total mandatory cases filed in the New Mexico Supreme Court do not include **petitions for extension of time** in criminal cases.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Supreme Court—**Mandatory** disposed data do not include **disciplinary** cases which are estimated to make the total less than 75% complete. Total **discretionary petitions granted** do not include **original proceedings** and **administrative agency** cases.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory decision** cases, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Georgia—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions granted** do not include **interlocutory decisions.**

Iowa—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions granted and disposed** do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Data do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions.**

Montana—Supreme Court—**Total mandatory** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency** cases.

New Jersey—Supreme Court—Data do not include **discretionary interlocutory decisions.**

Tennessee—Court of Criminal Appeals—Disposed data do not include some cases that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Filed data do not include **original proceeding petitions granted.**

Washington—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary petitions.**

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data include **mandatory judge disciplinary** cases.

Colorado—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions** and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

Georgia—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory filed** data include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals. **Discretionary petitions** disposed data represent some double counting because they include all **mandatory appeals** and **discretionary petitions granted** that are refiled as a **mandatory** case.
—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as **appeals.**

Illinois—Appellate Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Iowa—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the Court, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Massachusetts—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions granted** disposed data include all **mandatory** cases.
—Appeals Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Michigan—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** data include **discretionary petitions.**

Montana—Supreme Court—**Mandatory cases** disposed include all **discretionary petitions.**

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

New Mexico—Court of Appeals—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions.**

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**
—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Oklahoma—Court of Criminal Appeals—**Mandatory filed** data include **all discretionary petitions.**

Oregon—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

South Dakota—Filed data include **discretionary advisory opinions. Mandatory jurisdiction** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Tennessee—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

—Court of Appeals—**Mandatory disposed** data include some **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Criminal Appeals—**Mandatory jurisdiction** disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—**Discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary** cases and **certified questions from the federal courts**.

Connecticut—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory** cases, but do not include some unclassified appeals and **judge disciplinary** cases.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court– Total **mandatory jurisdiction** data include **discretionary petitions,** but do not include **mandatory disciplinary** and **advisory opinion** cases.

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary jurisdiction** filed data include noncase motions, but do not include **original proceeding petitions.**

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	347	349	101	5	69	63
Court of Appeals	IAC	429	387	90	3	143	78
State Total		776	736	95	8	97	141
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	COLR	93	163	175	5	19	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	4,491	3,659	81	21	214	123
State Total		4,584	3,822	83	26	176	125
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	482 C	448 C	93	7	69	21
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,096	1,016	93	6	183	47
State Total		1,578 *	1,464 *	93	13	121	67
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	522	20 A		7	75	2
Courts of Appeal	IAC	13,012	14,584	112	88	148	44
State Total		13,534	14,604 *		95	142	45
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	COLR	228	NA		7	33	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,269	2,105	93	16	142	69
State Total		2,497			23	109	76
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	COLR	281	285	101	7	40	9
Appellate Court	IAC	1,107	1,107	100	9	123	34
State Total		1,388	1,392	100	16	87	42
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	COLR	617	595	96	7	88	5
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	14,386	14,503	101	57	252	111
State Total		15,003	15,098	101	64	234	116
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	690	502	73	7	99	11
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,384	1,535	64	9	265	37
State Total		3,074	2,037	66	16	192	47
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	COLR	486	571	117	5	97	44
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	138	120	87	3	46	12
State Total		624	691	111	8	78	56

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	COLR	349	369	106	5	70	35
Court of Appeals	IAC	215	204	95	3	72	21
State Total		564	573	102	8	71	56
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	COLR	199	185	93	7	28	2
Appellate Court	IAC	8,191 B	7,951 B	97	50	164	72
State Total		8,390 *	8,136 *	97	57	147	73
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	199	259	130	5	40	4
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,966	1,657	84	13	151	35
State Total		2,165	1,916	88	18	120	39
IOWA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,211	947 B		9	135	44
Court of Appeals	IAC	743	662	89	6	124	27
State Total		1,954	1,609 *		15	130	70
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	165	267	162	7	24	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,201 B	1,152 B	96	10	120	48
State Total		1,366 *	1,419 *	104	17	80	55
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	COLR	281	278	99	7	40	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,569	2,463	96	14	184	70
State Total		2,850	2,741	96	21	136	77
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	82	95	116	7	12	2
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,835	3,517	92	48	80	91
State Total		3,917	3,612	92	55	71	93
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	COLR	261	244	93	7	37	5
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	2,006	1,808	90	13	154	42
State Total		2,267	2,052	91	20	113	47
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	86	NA		7	12	1
Appeals Court	IAC	1,568	1,171	75	14	112	26
State Total		1,654			21	79	27
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	COLR	2	NA		7	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	12,340 B	10,503 B	85	24	514	133
State Total		12,342 *			31	398	133

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed		Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	282	260		92	7	40	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,157	2,042		95	15	144	49
State Total		2,439	2,302		94	22	111	56
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	COLR	247	267		108	7	35	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,565	3,568		100	32	111	70
State Total		3,812	3,835		101	39	98	74
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	COLR	387	401		104	7	55	5
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	7,007	6,284		90	28	250	91
State Total		7,394	6,685		90	35	211	96
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	COLR	297	313		105	5	59	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	797	763	B		7	114	53
State Total		1,094	1,076	*		12	91	72
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	116	102		88	7	17	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,408	1,366		97	12	117	21
State Total		1,524	1,468		96	19	80	23
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	429	439		102	5	86	67
Court of Appeals	IAC	13	7		54	3	4	2
State Total		442	446		101	8	55	69
OHIO								
Supreme Court	COLR	685	531		78	7	98	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	10,721	10,928		102	59	182	99
State Total		11,406	11,459		100	66	173	105
OREGON								
Supreme Court	COLR	194	271	B		7	28	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	4,584	3,725		81	10	458	161
State Total		4,778	3,996	*		17	281	168
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	602	537		89	5	120	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	370	367		99	6	62	11
State Total		972	904		93	11	88	28
UTAH								
Supreme Court	COLR	566	556	B		5	113	33
Court of Appeals	IAC	629	691	B		7	90	37
State Total		1,195	1,247	*		12	100	69

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	13	13	100	7	2	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	464	NA		10	46	7
State Total		477			17	28	8
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	COLR	148 B	139 B	94	9	16	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,653	3,086	84	17	215	75
State Total		3,801 *	3,225 *	85	26	146	78
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,853 B	2,612 B	92	13	219	58
State Total		2,853 *	2,612 *	92	20	143	58
	States with no intermediate appellate court						
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	COLR	483 B	553 B	114	5	97	73
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	COLR	1,650	1,753	106	9	183	272
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	622 C	475 C	76	7	89	51
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	COLR	961	944	98	9	107	37
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	633 A	624 A	99	7	90	79
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,270 B	1,022 B	80	7	181	80
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,089	1,057	97	5	218	91
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	COLR	465	476	102	5	93	46
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	403 B	434 B	108	5	81	58
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	COLR	590	685	116	5	118	105

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases
in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	COLR	314	287	91	5	63	69
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	998	569	57	9	111	25
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	651	641	98	3	217	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	2,042	1,904	93	5	408	51
State Total		3,691	3,114	84	17	217	91
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	COLR	302	287	95	7	43	2
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	10,577 B	12,540 B	119	47	225	59
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	2,245 B	2,179 B	97	15	150	12
State Total		13,124 *	15,006 *	114	69	190	73
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,033	NA		9	115	33
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,445 B	774		5	289	46
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,323	1,038	78	12	110	42
State Total		3,801 *			26	146	121
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	225	NA		7	32	2
Superior Court	IAC	6,291	6,079	97	15	419	53
Commonwealth Court	IAC	3,491	3,519 B		9	388	29
State Total		10,007			31	323	84
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	COLR	107	NA		5	21	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,002	924 B		12	84	21
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	980	843 B		9	109	20
State Total		2,089			26	80	43
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	3	3	100	9	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	2,281	2,487	109	9	253	13
Courts of Appeals	IAC	8,062	8,134	101	80	101	47
State Total		10,346	10,624	103	98	106	61

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.
NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.
— = Inapplicable

(B): Mandatory jurisdiction cases cannot be separately identified and are reported with discretionary petitions. (See Table 4.)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data do not include **judge disciplinary** cases.

California—Supreme Court—Filed data do not include **judge disciplinary** cases. **Discretionary petitions** disposed data do not include **disciplinary** cases, which are estimated to make the total less than 75% complete.

New Mexico—Supreme Court—Disposed data do not include **administrative agency** cases.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Filed data do not include transfers from the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions and discretionary petitions that were granted.**

Georgia—Supreme Court—**Mandatory jurisdiction** filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

—Court of Appeals—**Mandatory jurisdiction** data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Hawaii—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions reviewed on the merits.** Disposed data include **petitions granted disposed.**

Illinois—Appellate Court—Data include **discretionary petitions.**

Iowa—Supreme Court—Filed data include **discretionary original proceedings.** Disposed data include some **discretionary cases that were dismissed.**

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Data include all **discretionary** cases.

Maryland—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Massachusetts—Appeals Court—Filed data include a small number of **discretionary interlocutory decision petitions.**

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions.**

Montana—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

New Jersey—Appellate Division of Superior Court—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

New Mexico—Court of Appeals—Disposed data include **discretionary petitions.**

New York—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions.**

—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions.**

North Carolina—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Court of Criminal Appeals—Filed data include all **discretionary jurisdiction** cases.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

Pennsylvania—Superior Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

—Commonwealth Court—Disposed data include **discretionary petitions.**

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were disposed.**

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary jurisdiction** cases. Filed data include **advisory opinions.**

Tennessee—Court of Criminal Appeals—Data include some **discretionary petitions.**

—Court of Appeals—Disposed data include some **discretionary petitions.**

Utah—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **discretionary petitions.**

Washington—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions.**

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary** cases and **certified questions from the federal courts.**

Connecticut—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory** cases, but do not include some unclassified appeals and **judge disciplinary** cases.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court—Data include **discretionary petition cases**, but do not include mandatory disciplinary and **advisory opinion** cases.

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	231	235	102	5	46	42
Court of Appeals	IAC	61	64	105	3	20	11
State Total		292	299	102	8	37	53
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,044 B	1,006 B	96	5	209	28
Court of Appeals	IAC	83	56	67	21	4	2
State Total		1,127 *	1,062 *	94	26	43	31
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total					13		
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	4,622	4,442	96	7	660	16
Courts of Appeal	IAC	7,236	7,438	103	88	82	24
State Total		11,858	11,880	100	95	125	40
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,072	1,261 B		7	153	33
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		16		
State Total		1,072	1,261 *		23	47	33
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	COLR	196	155	79	7	28	6
Appellate Court	IAC	109	46	42	9	12	3
State Total		305	201	66	16	19	9
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,303	1,251	96	7	186	10
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,457	2,297	93	57	43	19
State Total		3,760	3,548	94	64	59	29
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,079	1,559 B		7	154	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	794	794	100	9	88	12
State Total		1,873	2,353 *		16	117	29
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	COLR	43	43	100	5	9	4
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		43	43	100	8	5	4

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	COLR	77	86	112	5	15	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		77	86	112	8	10	8
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,582	1,498	95	7	226	14
Appellate Court	IAC	NA	NA		50		
State Total					57		
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	690	629	91	5	138	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	112	116	104	13	9	2
State Total		802	745	93	18	45	14
IOWA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	311 A		9		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total			311 *		15		
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	461	NA		7	66	19
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		10		
State Total					17		
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	COLR	753 A	718 A	95	7	108	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	59	76	129	14	4	2
State Total		812 *	794 *	98	21	39	22
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,684	2,870	107	7	383	64
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,980	3,945	99	48	83	94
State Total		6,664	6,815	102	55	121	158
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	COLR	626	608	97	7	89	13
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	204	204	100	13	16	4
State Total		830	812	98	20	42	17
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	444	NA		7	63	7
Appeals Court	IAC	916	916	100	14	65	15
State Total		1,360			21	65	23
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,507	2,755	110	7	358	27
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		24		
State Total					31		

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	662	679	103	7	95	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	312	306	98	15	21	7
State Total		974	985	101	22	44	22
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	COLR	809	823	102	7	116	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		32		
State Total		809	823	102	39	21	16
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,217 A	1,200 A	99	7	174	16
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA		28		
State Total					35		
NEW MEXICO							
Supreme Court	COLR	414	402	97	5	83	27
Court of Appeals	IAC	46	NA		7	7	3
State Total		460			12	38	30
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	626	601	96	7	89	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	451	431	96	12	38	7
State Total		1,077	1,032	96	19	57	16
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		0	0		8	0	0
OHIO							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,872	1,413	75	7	267	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		59		
State Total		1,872	1,413	75	66	28	17
OREGON							
Supreme Court	COLR	791	707	89	7	113	28
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		10		
State Total		791	707	89	17	47	28
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	61	NA		5	12	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total		61			11	6	2
UTAH							
Supreme Court	COLR	48	NA		5	10	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		7		
State Total					12		

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,775	1,357	76	7	254	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,570	2,140	136	10	157	25
State Total		3,345	3,497	105	17	197	54
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	COLR	891 A	883 A	99	9	99	18
Court of Appeals	IAC	351	354	101	17	21	7
State Total		1,242 •	1,237 •	100	26	48	26
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	COLR	842	728	86	7	120	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		13		
State Total					20		
	States with no intermediate appellate court						
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	COLR	1 A	5 A	500	5	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	COLR	45	45	100	9	5	7
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	COLR	64	59	92	9	7	2
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		7		
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	COLR	627	567	90	5	125	57
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	COLR	177	197	111	5	35	18
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	49	NA		5	10	7
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	COLR	32	36	113	5	6	6

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	1,623	1,586	98	5	325	90
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	867	1,248	144	9	96	21
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		5		
State Total		867	1,248	144	17	51	21
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,499	3,808	85	7	643	25
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA		47		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA		15		
State Total					69		
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	446	NA		9	50	14
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NA	412		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		12		
State Total					26		
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	3,645	NA		7	521	31
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ		15		
Commonwealth Court	IAC	36	NJ		9	4	0
State Total		3,681			31	119	31
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	COLR	731	772 B		5	146	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	109	74	68	12	9	2
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	55	36 A		9	6	1
State Total		895	882 *		26	34	18
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,207	1,166	97	9	134	7
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	1,380	1,352	98	9	153	8
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		80		
State Total		2,587	2,518	97	98	26	15

Table 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.
NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.
— = Inapplicable

(B): **Discretionary petitions** cannot be separately identified and are reported with **mandatory** cases. (See Table 3).

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
Delaware—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions**.
Iowa—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions granted and disposed** do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.
Kentucky—Supreme Court—Data do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions**.
Minnesota—Court of Appeals—Data do not include **petitions of final judgments that were denied**.
New Jersey—Supreme Court—Data do not include **discretionary interlocutory petitions**.
South Carolina—Supreme Court—Filed data do not include **discretionary petitions that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn or settled.**
South Dakota—Supreme Court—Filed data do not include **advisory opinions,** which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
Tennessee—Court of Criminal Appeals—Disposed data do not include some cases that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
Washington—Supreme Court—Data do not include some cases that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Arizona—Supreme Court—Data include **mandatory judge disciplinary** cases.
Colorado—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
Georgia—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases and **discretionary petitions granted that are refiled as a mandatory** case.
Michigan—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
Tennessee—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.
Virginia—Court of Appeals—Disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:
Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Filed data include noncase motions that could not be separated, but do not include original proceeding petitions.

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: filed	filed granted	granted disposed	Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	COLR	231	32	NA	14		5	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	61	NA	NA			3	
State Total		292						
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,044 A	NA	0			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	83	NA	NA			21	
State Total		1,127 *						
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total								
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	4,622	150 A	3,252			7	21
Courts of Appeal	IAC	7,236	753	NA	10		88	9
State Total		11,858	903 *					
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,072	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			16	
State Total		1,072						
CONNECTICUT								
Supreme Court	COLR	196	28	NA	14		7	4
Appellate Court	IAC	109	56	NA	51		9	6
State Total		305	84		28			
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,303	NA	NA			7	
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,457	NA	NA			57	
State Total		3,760						
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,079	163	NA	15		7	23
Court of Appeals	IAC	794	NA	NA			9	
State Total		1,873						
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	COLR	43	10	NA	23		5	2
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		43	10		23			

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Discretionary petitions:						
State/Court name:	Court type	filed	filed granted	granted disposed	Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	COLR	77	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		77						
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,582	87	96	5	110	7	12
Appellate Court	IAC	NA	NA	NA			50	
State Total								
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	690	NA	60			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	112	45	49	40	109	13	3
State Total		802		109				
IOWA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	78			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total				78				
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	461	34	NA	7		7	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			10	
State Total								
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	COLR	753 A	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	59	NA	NA			14	
State Total		812 *						
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,684	881	921	33	105	7	126
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,980	1,268	1,246	32	98	48	26
State Total		6,664	2,149	2,167	32	101	55	39
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	COLR	626	113	NA	18		7	16
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	204	19	NA	9		13	1
State Total		830	132		16			
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	444	161	259 B	36		7	23
Appeals Court	IAC	916	NA	NA			14	
State Total		1,360						
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,507	81	NA	3		7	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			24	
State Total								

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: filed	filed granted	granted disposed	Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	662	105	105	16	100	7	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	312	92	90	29	98	15	6
State Total		974	197	195	20	99	22	9
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	COLR	809	63	78	8	124	7	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			32	
State Total		809	63	78	8	124		
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,217 A	162 A	NA	13		7	23
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			28	
State Total								
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	COLR	414	31	NJ	7		5	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	46	11	NA	24		7	2
State Total		460	42		9			
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	626	59	54	9	92	7	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	451	53	NA	12		12	4
State Total		1,077	112		10			
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		0	0	0				
OHIO								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,872	163	137	9	84	7	23
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			59	
State Total		1,872	163	137	9	84		
OREGON								
Supreme Court	COLR	791	82	NA	10		7	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			10	
State Total		791	82		10			
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	61	61	NA	100		5	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total		61	61		100			
UTAH								
Supreme Court	COLR	48	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			7	
State Total								

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Discretionary petitions:						
State/Court name:	Court type	filed	filed granted	granted disposed	Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,775	267	NA	15		7	38
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,570	354 A	NA			10	35
State Total		3,345	621 *					
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	COLR	891 A	NA	17			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	351	NA	NA			17	
State Total		1,242 *						
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	COLR	842	116	77	14	66	7	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			13	
State Total								
States with no intermediate appellate court								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	COLR	1 A	NA	NA			5	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	COLR	45	NA	NA			9	
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	COLR	64	5	0	8		9	1
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NA	NA			7	
NEBRASKA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
NEVADA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	COLR	627	NA	NA			5	
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	COLR	177	NA	NA			5	
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	49	NA	NA			5	
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	COLR	32	NA	NA			5	

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Discretionary petitions:						
State/Court name:	Court type	filed	filed granted	granted disposed	Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	1,623	556	647	34	116	5	111
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	COLR	867	NA	NA			9	
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
State Total		867						
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,499	NA	192			7	
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			47	
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			15	
State Total								
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	COLR	446	NA	NA			9	
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NA	99	99		100	5	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			12	
State Total								
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	3,645	246 C	NA			7	35
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			15	
Commonwealth Court	IAC	36	NA	NA			9	
State Total		3,681						
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	COLR	731	48	NA	7		5	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	109	27	NA	25		12	2
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	55	14	NA	25		9	2
State Total		895	89		10			
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,207	84	116	7	138	9	9
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	1,380	202	255	15	126	9	22
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			80	
State Total		2,587	286	371	11	130		

Table 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.
NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.
— = Inapplicable

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Supreme Court—Filed data do not include **original proceedings** initially heard in the Supreme Court that were granted.

Delaware—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions** filed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions.**

Kentucky—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions** filed data do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions.**

New Jersey—Supreme Court—Filed data do not include **discretionary interlocutory petitions granted**.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Filed data do not include **original proceedings petitions granted**.

Washington—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions filed** data do not include some cases reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory judge disciplinary** cases.

Massachusetts—Supreme Judicial Court—Disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases disposed.

C: The following court's data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Filed data include motions that could not be separated, but do not include **original proceeding petitions that were granted**.

TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990

	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:					
State/Court name:	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/ orders	Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	180	5	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	119	3	8
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	116	5	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	288	21	48
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	373	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	623	6	16
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	100	7	50
Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	some	10,416	88	206
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	237	7	14
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	384	16	26
CONNECTICUT								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	246	7	14
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	413	9	14
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	199	7	15
District Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	O	4,492	57	102
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	310	7	17
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	1,922	9	28
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	318	5	14
Intermediate Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	118	3	6
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	X	NA	5	11
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	X	O	NA	3	6
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	NA	7	24
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	2,082	50	88
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	219	5	13
Court of Appeals	X	X	X	X	X	1,685	13	10

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:					
State/Court name:	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/ orders	Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
IOWA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	249	9	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	551	6	6
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	200	7	7
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	886	10	18
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	NA	7	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	NA	14	22
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	some	135	7	27
Courts of Appeal	O	X	X	X	X	3,195	48	103
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	142	7	14
Court of Special Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	205	13	29
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	236	7	20
Appeals Court	O	X	X	X	X	163	14	31
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	71	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	4,729	24	84
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	157	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	437	15	36
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	130	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,884	32	135
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	87	7	26
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	X	O	X	X	X	3,397	28	60
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	166	5	10
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	164	7	20
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	93	7	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	1,221	12	28

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	281	5	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	O	O	O	NA	3	0
OHIO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	NA	7	20
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	7,127	59	varies
OREGON								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	91	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	499	10	18
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	178	5	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	339	6	11
UTAH								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	111	5	12
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	244	7	9
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	164	7	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	564	10	12
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	119	9	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,358	17	32
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	101	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	1,265	13	25
States with no intermediate appellate court								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	77	5	5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	369	9	27
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	259	7	9
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	375	9	38
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	387	7	14

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:					
State/Court name:	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/ orders	Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
NEBRASKA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	322	7	14
NEVADA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	O	155	5	20
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	139	5	20
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	163	5	17
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	159	5	1
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	211	5	8
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	278	5	20
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	161	5	12
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	703	9	18
Court of Civil Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	404	3	6
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	418	5	10
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	120	7	28
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	47	25
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	15	171
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	313	9	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	NA	5	6
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	1,038	12	12
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	209	7	NA
Superior Court	X	O	X	X	X	4,193	15	NA
Commonwealth Court	O	X	X	X	X	1,556	9	57

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:					
State/Court name:	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/ orders	Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	157	5	12
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	789	9	9
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	748	12	12
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	66	9	44
Court of Criminal Appeal	X	O	X	O	O	170	9	42
Courts of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	4,839	80	217

CODES:

X - Court follows this method when counting opinions.
O - Court does not follow this method when counting opinions.
NA - Data are not available.

TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseload for State Trial Courts, 1990

Reported Caseload			Filed	Disposed
Civil cases:				
I.	General jurisdiction courts:			
	A.	Number of reported complete civil cases	3,692,643	3,365,479
		Number of courts reporting complete civil data	30	28
	B.	Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types	2,529,167	2,026,031
		Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types	21	16
	C.	Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete	1,999,856	1,905,862
		Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete	7	8
	D.	Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	966,525	1,018,342
		Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	3	5
II.	Limited jurisdiction courts:			
	A.	Number of reported complete civil cases	4,799,487	3,024,701
		Number of courts reporting complete civil data	49	37
	B.	Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types	199,790	226,391
		Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types	2	2
	C.	Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete	4,211,397	4,410,200
		Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete	23	29
	D.	Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	0	0
		Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	0	0
Criminal cases:				
I.	General jurisdiction courts:			
	A.	Number of reported complete criminal cases	1,299,765	837,300
		Number of courts reporting complete criminal data	22	18
	B.	Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types	502,974	688,239
		Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types	13	13
	C.	Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete	1,174,138	918,485
		Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete	14	14
	D.	Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	813,373	1,007,885
		Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	4	4
II.	Limited jurisdiction courts:			
	A.	Number of reported complete criminal cases	2,711,052	1,998,633
		Number of courts reporting complete criminal data	22	16

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TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseload for State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

Reported Caseload		Filed	Disposed
B.	Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types	1,920,129	1,778,179
	Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types	16	14
C.	Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete	2,014,681	1,911,966
	Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete	9	9
D.	Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	2,644,030	2,316,957
	Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	16	15

Summary section for all trial courts:*

	Reported filings					
	General Jurisdiction		Limited Jurisdiction		Total (incomplete)	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1. Total number of reported complete cases	3,692,643	1,299,765	4,799,487	2,711,052	8,492,130	4,010,817
2. Total number of reported complete cases that include other case types	2,529,167	502,974	199,790	1,920,129	2,728,957	2,423,103
3. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete	1,999,856	1,174,138	4,211,397	2,014,681	6,211,253	3,188,819
4. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete and include other case types	966,525	813,373	0	2,644,030	966,525	3,457,403
Total (incomplete)	9,188,191	3,790,250	9,210,674	9,289,892	18,398,865	13,080,142

* National civil and criminal caseload data reported in Table 7 do not exactly match the corresponding data reported in Part I. The small differential reflects last minute changes based on data review by one state. These changes were incorporated into the Tables in Part III, but the text and graphics in Part I could not be revised prior to the publication deadline.

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualify-ing footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	154,355 B	154,606 B	100	3,820
District	L	1	B	1	569,297 B	606,855 B	107	14,069
Municipal	L	1	M	1	854,141 A	645,057 A	76	21,139
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
ALASKA								
Superior	G	1	B	6	18,769 C	19,179 C	102	3,412
District	L	3	B	5	102,302	114,465	112	18,599
State Total					121,071 *	133,644 *	110	22,011
ARIZONA								
Superior	G	2	D	6	150,648	146,899	98	4,110
Tax	G	2	I	1	1,318	976	74	36
Justice of the Peace	L	1	Z	1	624,430	600,825	96	17,037
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	1,066,094	1,083,526	102	29,087
State Total					1,842,490	1,832,226	99	50,269
ARKANSAS								
Chancery and Probate	G	2	I	3	80,806	72,331	90	3,437
Circuit	G	1	A	1	54,900	53,835	98	2,335
City	L	1	A	1	23,788	12,036	51	1,012
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	A	1	581,428 A	371,386 A	64	24,734
Police	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
CALIFORNIA								
Superior	G	2	B	6	933,296 A	863,940 A	93	3,136
Justice	L	3	B	1	528,777 C	438,603 C	83	1,777
Municipal	L	3	B	1	15,879,799 C	13,885,646 C	87	53,360
State Total					17,341,872 *	15,188,189 *	88	58,272
COLORADO								
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	2	D	3	137,279 B	131,821 B	96	4,167
Water	G	2	I	1	1,210	1,590	131	37
County	L	2	D	1	407,628 C	362,053 C	89	12,373
Municipal	L	1	I	1	603,924 A	NA		18,332
State Total					1,150,041 *			34,909
CONNECTICUT								
Superior	G	6	E	5**	610,054 B	580,105 C		18,559
Probate	L	2	I	1	57,467	NA		1,748
State Total					667,521 *			20,307

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
DELAWARE								
Court of Chancery	G	2	I	1	3,611	3,212	89	542
Superior	G	2	B	1	12,477 B	11,472 B	92	1,873
Alderman's	L	4	A	1	28,307	27,512	97	4,249
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	A	1	44,992	43,348	96	6,754
Family	L	2	B	3**	40,007	42,179	105	6,006
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	257,063	255,553	99	38,588
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	A	1	47,341	46,844	99	7,106
State Total					433,798 *	430,120 *	99	65,118
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Superior	G	6	B	6**	214,085	207,310 A		35,275
FLORIDA								
Circuit	G	2	E	4	865,008	690,883 A		6,686
County	L	5	A	1	4,556,811	3,540,083	78	35,221
State Total					5,421,819	4,230,966 *		41,906
GEORGIA								
Superior	G	2	G	3	272,495	263,447	97	4,206
Civil	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	76,455 A	60,776 A	79	1,180
Magistrate	L	2	B	1	388,088 A	331,844 A	86	5,991
Municipal	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	B	1	121,053 A	90,344 A		1,869
State	L	2	G	1	362,210 A	337,768 A	93	5,591
State Total								
HAWAII								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	55,309 B	62,061 B	112	4,991
District	L	4	A	1	889,714	895,216	101	80,283
State Total					945,023 *	957,277 *	101	85,273
IDAHO								
District	G	3	D	6**	389,149 C	388,646 C	100	38,654
ILLINOIS								
Circuit	G	4	G	6**	6,584,092 C	6,364,045 C	97	57,601
INDIANA								
Superior and Circuit	G	3	B	5	707,232 A	656,890 A	93	12,756
City and Town	L	3	B	1	242,822	222,668	92	4,380
County	L	4	B	1	170,727	160,223	94	3,079
Probate	L	2	I	1	2,837	2,310	81	51
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	B	1	142,565 A	137,747 A	97	2,571
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	2	I	1	70,503	63,086	89	1,272
State Total					1,336,686 *	1,242,924 *	93	24,110

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualify-ing footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
IOWA								
District	G	3	B	6	980,717 B	1,004,295 C		35,319
KANSAS								
District	G	4	B	6**	467,931	464,510	99	18,887
Municipal	L	1	B	1	385,963 A	330,653 A	86	15,578
State Total					853,894 *	795,163 *	93	34,465
KENTUCKY								
Circuit	G	2	B	6	83,025	77,770	94	2,253
District	L	3	B	1	672,580 B	635,571 B	94	18,250
State Total					755,605 *	713,341 *	94	20,503
LOUISIANA								
District	G	1	Z	6	506,697 B	NA		12,007
Family and Juvenile	G	2	I	4***	30,354	24,050	79	719
City and Parish	L	1	B	1	663,598	565,860	85	15,725
Justice of the Peace	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Mayor's	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MAINE								
Superior	G	2	E	6	20,996 B	20,168 B	96	1,710
Administrative	L	2	I	1	357	377	106	29
District	L	4	E	5	315,123 B	305,404 B	97	25,663
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MARYLAND								
Circuit	G	2	B	6**	225,688 B	191,205 B	85	4,720
District	L	1	B	1	2,114,363	1,260,583 A		44,220
Orphan's	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MASSACHUSETTS								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	D	5**	2,115,171 A	1,073,583 A		35,157
MICHIGAN								
Circuit	G	2	B	6**	252,027	250,908	100	2,711
Court of Claims	G	2	I	1	611	865	142	7
Recorder's Court of Detroit	L	I	B	I	14,480	14,121	98	156
District	L	4	B	1	3,216,746	3,110,802	97	34,606
Municipal	L	4	B	1	43,133	41,695	97	464
Probate	L	2	I	1	186,758	110,872 A		2,009
State Total					3,713,755	3,529,263 *		39,953
MINNESOTA								
District	G	4	B	6	1,940,214	1,899,027	98	44,347

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MISSISSIPPI								
Chancery	G	I	I	5	63,126 C	NA		2,453
Circuit	G	I	B	I	36,514 B	NA		1,419
County	L	I	B	I	35,783	NA		1,391
Family	L	I	I	I	1,077	NA		42
Justice	L	I	B	I	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	I	NA	NA		
State Total								
MISSOURI								
Circuit	G	2	G	6**	834,621 A	789,952 A	95	16,311
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MONTANA								
District	G	2	G	3	28,451	25,560	90	3,561
Water	G	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Workers' Compensation	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
City	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
NEBRASKA								
District	G	2	B	5	58,028 B	57,293 B	99	3,676
County	L	1	B	1	429,694 A	426,642 A	99	27,224
Separate Juvenile	L	2	I	1	2,484	NA		157
Workers' Compensation	L	2	I	1	486	485	100	31
State Total					490,692 *			31,088
NEVADA								
District	G	2	Z	2	45,585 A	NA		3,793
Justice	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Superior	G	2	A	5	46,465	41,173	89	4,189
District	L	4	A	1	346,760	972 A		31,261
Municipal	L	4	A	1	4,013	NA		362
Probate	L	2	I	1	19,850	NA		1,789
State Total					417,088			37,601
NEW JERSEY								
Superior	G	2	B	6**	1,037,582	1,010,654	97	13,422
Municipal	L	4	B	1	6,416,685	6,673,136	104	83,008
Tax	L	2	I	1	6,324	3,463	55	82
State Total					7,460,591	7,687,253	103	96,512

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualify-ing footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NEW MEXICO								
District	G	2	E	6	77,402 B	73,610 B	95	5,109
Magistrate	L	3	E	1	105,072 B	NA		6,935
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	3	E	1	351,545	288,009	82	23,203
State Total								
NEW YORK								
Supreme and County	G	2	E	1	298,927 C	278,159 B		1,662
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	2,383	2,222	93	13
District and City	L	4	E	1	1,574,043 A	1,555,419 A	99	8,749
Family	L	2	I	4	529,424	517,261	98	2,943
Surrogates'	L	2	I	1	123,568	116,279 A		687
Town and Village Justice	L	1	E	1	NA	NA		
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	2	I	1	247,634 A	271,683 A	110	1,376
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	E	1	338,518 A	322,238 A	95	1,882
State Total								
NORTH CAROLINA								
Superior	G	2	E	1	222,789	202,288	91	3,361
District	L	6	E	6**	2,240,612	2,117,389 A		33,802
State Total					2,463,401	2,319,677 *		37,163
NORTH DAKOTA								
District	G	4	B	6**	30,581 B	28,739 B	94	4,787
County	L	1	E	1	86,503	85,977	99	13,541
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	46,104 A		
State Total						160,820 *		
OHIO								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	6**	711,016 B	700,790 B	99	6,555
County	L	5	B	1	271,453	265,575	98	2,503
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	6,506	5,728	88	60
Mayor's	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	5	B	1	2,368,229	2,360,872	100	21,833
State Total								
OKLAHOMA								
District	G	2	J	6	498,545 A	468,935 A	94	15,849
Court of Tax Review	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
OREGON								
Circuit	G	2	E	6**	141,776 B	123,600 C		4,988
Tax	G	2	I	1	442	378	86	16
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
District	L	1	E	1	500,706 A	478,952 A	96	17,616
Justice	L	3	E	1	120,842 C	122,400 C	101	4,252
Municipal	L	3	A	1	258,013	234,303	91	9,078
State Total								
PENNSYLVANIA								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	4	499,723 A	480,483 A	96	4,206
District Justice	L	4	B	1	2,283,019	2,055,398	90	19,215
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	B	1	197,094 B	194,825 B	99	1,659
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	I	1	265,854 A	179,085 A		2,238
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	B	1	367,004	NA		3,089
State Total					3,612,694 *			
PUERTO RICO								
Superior	G	2	J	6	114,888 A	110,259 A	96	3,263
District	L	2	J	1	184,434 A	183,445 A	99	5,238
Justice of the Peace	L	2	I	1	NJ	NJ		
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
RHODE ISLAND								
Superior	G	2	D	1	18,141 B	17,979 B	99	1,808
District	L	2	D	1	86,190 A	72,221 A	84	8,589
Family	L	2	I	6	16,761 A	16,545 A		1,670
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Circuit	G	2	B	1	156,612 B	143,151 B	91	4,492
Family	L	2	I	6**	84,609	84,237	100	2,427
Magistrate	L	4	B	1	930,000 A	925,106 A	99	26,673
Municipal	L	4	B	1	430,908	425,918	99	12,359
Probate	L	2	I	1	23,234	22,256	96	666
State Total					1,625,363 *	1,600,668 *	98	46,616
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Circuit	G		A	A	221,422	190,638 A		31,813
TENNESSEE								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	Z	6**	187,527 A	161,031 A	86	3,845
General Sessions	L	1	M	6**	3,547 A	2,878 A	81	73
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualify-ing footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
TEXAS								
District	G	2	B	6**	637,018	623,935	98	3,750
County-Level	L	2	B	6**	634,853	645,592	102	3,737
Justice of the Peace	L	4	A	1	2,517,188 A	2,235,517 A	89	14,819
Municipal	L	4	A	1	6,157,611 A	4,622,670 A	75	36,250
State Total					9,946,670 *	8,127,714 *	82	58,556
UTAH								
District	G	2	J	3	34,555 B	3,550 C		2,006
Circuit	L	4	B	1	326,221 C	98,865 A		18,935
Justice	L	4	B	1	308,139	303,952	99	17,885
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	38,642	38,323	99	2,243
State Total					707,557 *	444,690 *		41,069
VERMONT								
District	G	2	D	4***	146,303	137,286	94	25,997
Superior	G	2	B	5	12,408	11,012	89	2,205
Probate	L	2	I	1	4,496	4,011	89	799
State Total					163,207	152,309	93	29,001
VIRGINIA								
Circuit	G	2	A	3	211,193	192,410	91	3,413
District	L	4	A	4	3,456,923	3,507,762	101	55,871
State Total					3,668,116	3,700,172	101	59,284
WASHINGTON								
Superior	G	2	G	6	201,504 B	184,435 B	92	4,140
District	L	4	C	1	911,772 A	888,458 A	97	18,735
Municipal	L	4	C	1	1,175,148 A	482,857 A		24,147
State Total					2,288,424 *	1,555,750 *		47,022
WEST VIRGINIA								
Circuit	G	2	J	5	57,146 B	56,964 B	100	3,186
Magistrate	L	2	J	1	330,269	326,744 A		18,415
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
WISCONSIN								
Circuit	G	3	D	6**	1,002,990	989,123	99	20,504
Municipal	L	3	A	1	NA	328,289 A		
State Total						1,317,412 *		
WYOMING								
District	G	2	J	5	13,823 B	10,657 B	77	3,047
County	L	1	J	4	106,969	107,346 A		23,583
Justice of the Peace	L	1	J	1	30,760	29,667	96	6,781
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

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Table 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with grand total jurisdiction are listed in the table, regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:

1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and, thus, a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution, but URESA cases are counted separately
** = Nondissolution support/custody cases are also counted separately
*** = Court has only URESA jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

1 = Parking data are unavailable
2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
3 = Only contested parking cases are included
4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled admin- istratively; contested parking cases are handled by the court

CRIMINAL UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

M = Missing data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Single defendant—single charge
B = Single defendant—single incident (one/more charges)
C = Single defendant—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
D = Single defendant--one/more incidents
E = Single defendant—content varies with prosecutor
F = One/more defendants—single charge
G = One/more defendants—single incident (one/more charges)
H = One/more defendants—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
J = One/more defendants—one/more incidents
K = One/more defendants—content varies with prosecutor
L = Inconsistent during reporting year
Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:
The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
Alabama—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases that were unavailable from a few municipalities.
Arkansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include data from several municipalities that did not report.
California—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report for part of the year.
Colorado—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 18 courts.
District of Columbia—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include most **child-victim petition** cases and some unclassified civil cases.
Florida—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.
Georgia—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **criminal** cases and data from 16 counties that did not report.
—Probate Court—Grand total filed data include **civil** cases from 97 of 159 counties, **criminal** cases from 51 counties, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data do not include any **civil** cases, **criminal and traffic** data from 108 counties, and are less than 75% complete.
—State Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include data from 22 of 62 courts, and are less than 75% complete.
Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals** and **criminal appeals** cases.
--Municipal Court of Marion County—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **appeals of trial court** cases.
Kansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.
Maryland—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking** and most **civil** cases, and are less than 75% complete.
Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth-- Grand total filed data do not include **misdemeanor** cases from the Juvenile Court Department and motions filed in Probate/Family Court Department. Disposed data do not include **civil** cases from the Housing Court Department, some **civil** cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department, **criminal** cases from the Boston Municipal Court, Housing Court and Juvenile Court Departments, **DWI/DUI** and **criminal appeals** cases from the District Court Department, **moving traffic violation** cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department, **ordinance violation,** and **miscellaneous criminal** cases; most **juvenile** data from the Juvenile Court Department, and some **juvenile** data from the District Court Department,and are less than 75% complete.
Michigan—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil,** and **adoption** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Table 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

Missouri—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include those **ordinance violations** heard by Municipal judges.

Nebraska—County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.

Nevada—District Court—Grand total filed data do not include **felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal,** and all **juvenile** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

New Hampshire—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **criminal, traffic,** and **juvenile** cases, are missing **all civil case types** except **mental health,** and are less than 75% complete.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

—District and City Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—Civil Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic**, and some **ordinance violation** cases.

—Surrogates' Court—Grand total disposed data do not include some **miscellaneous estate** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **miscellaneous civil** cases.

North Dakota—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** and **parking** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Oklahoma—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any **juvenile** cases.

Oregon—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some **civil appeals** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking,** and **miscellaneous traffic** cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases.

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **URESA** cases.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **small claims** cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** and **mental health** cases.

—Family Court—Grand total filed data do not include **paternity** cases. Disposed data do not include **URESA** and **paternity** cases for the first three quarters of the year, and are less than 75% complete.

South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate, mental health, administrative agency appeals,** and **juvenile** data.

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous criminal** and **traffic/other violation** cases.

—General Sessions Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent cases from 16 of 92 counties, and are less than 75% complete.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 85%.

—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 90%.

Utah—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **criminal** and **traffic/other violation** cases.

Washington—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than half the total filings statewide. Disposed data are less than 75% complete.

West Virginia—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include data from 45 of 195 municipalities.

Wyoming—County Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **trial court civil appeals** and **criminal appeals** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Colorado—District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Delaware—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs.**

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **criminal postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Iowa—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Kentucky—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **sentence review only proceedings.**

Louisiana—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Maine—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Maryland—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **estate** cases from the Orphan's Court, and some **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.

Mississippi—Circuit Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs.**

Nebraska—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

New Mexico—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Table 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1990. (continued)

North Dakota—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **sentence review only** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Oregon—Circuit Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

South Carolina—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Utah—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

Washington—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs.**

Wyoming—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Alaska—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

California—Justice Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from one court.

—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from one court.

Colorado—County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include cases from Denver County Court.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include most **small claims** cases, and represent some double counting of cases disposed at geographical area locations by transfer to district location.

Idaho—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**, but do not include **mental health** cases.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.

Iowa—District Court—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include **juvenile** cases and a few **domestic relations** cases.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs**, but do not include **juvenile** cases from three counties.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **civil appeals** and **criminal appeals** cases.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include **juvenile**, some **adoption**, and some **mental health** cases.

—Justice Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include data from several courts.

Utah—District Court—Grand total disposed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, domestic relations, estate,** and **criminal** cases.

—Circuit Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Support/custody: (a) method of count code	Support/custody: (b) decree change counted as	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a per-centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA							
Circuit	G	6	NF	94,189 B	97,800 B	104	2,331
District	L	1		169,364	194,337	115	4,192
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
ALASKA							
Superior	G	6	R	13,861 B	14,680 B	106	2,520
District	L	5		19,408	32,307	166	3,528
State Total				33,269 *	46,987 *	141	6,048
ARIZONA							
Superior	G	6	R	109,762	108,100	98	2,995
Justice of the Peace	L	1		127,903	123,406	96	3,490
Municipal	L	1		10,596	10,543	99	289
Tax	G	1		1,318	976	74	36
State Total				249,579	243,025	97	6,809
ARKANSAS							
Chancery and Probate	G	3	R	69,227	62,415	90	2,945
Circuit	G	1		22,542	24,212	107	959
City	L	1		85	63	74	4
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
County	L	1		NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		54,029 A	22,694 A	42	2,298
Police	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
CALIFORNIA							
Superior	G	6	NC	685,816 A	597,250 A	87	2,304
Justice	L	1		30,344 A	22,781 A	75	102
Municipal	L	1		1,105,522 A	842,974 A	76	3,715
State Total				1,821,682 *	1,463,005 *	80	6,121
COLORADO							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	3	R	98,219	95,182	97	2,981
Water	G	1		1,210	1,590	131	37
County	L	1		114,830 A	113,899 A	99	3,486
State Total				214,259 *	210,671 *	98	6,504
CONNECTICUT							
Superior	G	5**	NC	173,337 B	101,867 C		5,273
Probate	L	1		57,467	NA		1,748
State Total				230,804 *			7,021

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
DELAWARE							
Court of Chancery	G	1		3,611	3,212	89	542
Superior	G	1		5,644 B	4,697 B	83	847
Alderman's	L	1		0	0		
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		5,420	5,060	93	814
Family	L	3**	R	25,927 B	27,502 B		3,892
Justice of the Peace	L	1		29,432	28,594	97	4,418
State Total				70,034 *	69,065 *		10,513
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Superior	G	6**	R	141,053	140,925	100	23,242
FLORIDA							
Circuit	G	4	R	557,913	447,120	80	4,312
County	L	1		354,358	328,924	93	2,739
State Total				912,271	776,044	85	7,051
GEORGIA							
Superior	G	3	NF	180,432	176,722	98	2,785
Civil	L	1		NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	1		302,547 A	262,333 A	87	4,670
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		26,518 A	NA		409
State	L	1		130,112 A	105,435 A	81	2,008
State Total							
HAWAII							
Circuit	G	6	R	28,179 B	36,686 B	130	2,543
District	L	1		24,510	21,968	90	2,212
State Total				52,689 *	58,654 *	111	4,754
IDAHO							
District	G	6**	NF	62,075 A	62,494 A	101	6,166
ILLINOIS							
Circuit	G	6**	R	695,416 C	676,817 C	97	6,084
INDIANA							
Superior and Circuit	G	5	R	294,730 A	285,309 A	97	5,316
City and Town	L	1		12,035	11,203	93	217
County	L	1		51,640	50,196	97	931
Probate	L	1		2,149 A	1,615 A	75	39
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	1		9,983 A	11,012 A	110	180
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	1		70,503	63,086	89	1,272
State Total				441,040 *	422,421 *	96	7,955
IOWA							
District	G	6	NF	184,692 B	185,152 C		6,651

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Support/custody: (a) method of count code	Support/custody: (b) decree change counted as	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a per-centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
KANSAS							
District	G	6**	NC	160,398	156,851	98	6,474
KENTUCKY							
Circuit	G	6	R	67,914	63,229	93	1,843
District	L	1		148,803 A	137,447 A	92	4,038
State Total				216,717 *	200,676 *	93	5,881
LOUISIANA							
District	G	6	R	175,755 B	NA		4,165
Family and Juvenile	G	4***	R	10,117	7,672	76	240
City and Parish	L	1		66,208	48,306	73	1,569
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
MAINE							
Superior	G	6	NC	6,893	7,135	104	561
Administrative	L	1		357	377	106	29
District	L	5	NC	66,105	58,123	88	5,383
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
MARYLAND							
Circuit	G	6**	NF	128,893 B	102,193 B	79	2,696
District	L	1		738,202	6,967 A		15,439
Orphan's	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
MASSACHUSETTS							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	5**	R	560,420 A	555,297 A		9,315
MICHIGAN							
Circuit	G	6**	NC	206,411	205,368	99	2,221
Court of Claims	G	1		611	865	142	7
District	L	1		414,847	411,781	99	4,463
Municipal	L	1		863	818	95	9
Probate	L	1		103,605	36,241 A		1,115
State Total				726,337	655,073 *		7,814
MINNESOTA							
District	G	6	NF	215,792	207,691	96	4,932
MISSISSIPPI							
Chancery	G	5	NF	59,479 B	NA		2,311
Circuit	G	I	I	21,561 B	NA		838
County	L	I	I	23,651	NA		919
Family	L	I	I	NA	NA		
Justice	L	I	I	NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody: (a) method of count code	Support/custody: (b) decree change counted as	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MISSOURI							
Circuit	G	6**	NF	264,923	244,327	92	5,177
MONTANA							
District	G	3	R	23,115 A	19,577 A	85	2,893
City	L	1		NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
NEBRASKA							
District	G	5	R	51,504 C	50,956 C	99	3,263
County	L	1		57,071	54,868	96	3,616
Workers' Compensation	L	1		486	485	100	31
State Total				109,061 *	106,309 *	97	6,910
NEVADA							
District	G	2	R	45,579	NA		3,792
Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Superior	G	5	R	33,709	29,244	87	3,039
District	L	1		55,037	972 A		4,962
Municipal	L	1		334	NA		30
Probate	L	1		19,850	NA		1,789
State Total				108,930			9,820
NEW JERSEY							
Superior	G	6**	R	844,051	826,754	98	10,919
Tax	L	1		6,324	3,463	55	82
State Total				850,375	830,217	98	11,001
NEW MEXICO							
District	G	6	R	56,709 B	53,713 B	95	3,743
Magistrate	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	1		9,787	10,387	106	646
State Total							
NEW YORK							
Supreme and County	G	1		219,605 C	200,531 B		1,221
Court of Claims	L	1		2,383	2,222	93	13
District and City	L	1		249,450 A	242,659 A	97	1,387
Family	L	4	R	468,727	452,324	97	2,605
Surrogates'	L	1		123,568	116,279 A		687
Town and Village Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	1		247,634 A	271,683 A	110	1,376
State Total							

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Support/custody: (a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a per-centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NORTH CAROLINA							
Superior	G	1		114,005	102,430	90	1,720
District	L	6**	R	501,625	426,575 A		7,568
State Total				615,630	529,005 *		9,287
NORTH DAKOTA							
District	G	6**	R	18,131	17,706	98	2,838
County	L	1		16,269	15,427	95	2,547
State Total				34,400	33,133	96	5,385
OHIO							
Court of Common Pleas	G	6**	NF	398,357 B	388,000 B	97	3,672
County	L	1		26,579	24,698	93	245
Court of Claims	L	1		6,506	5,728	88	60
Municipal	L	1		383,890	384,894	100	3,539
State Total				815,332 *	803,320 *	99	7,517
OKLAHOMA							
District	G	6	NF	205,833	199,987	97	6,544
Court of Tax Review	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
OREGON							
Circuit	G	6**	R	93,530 B	96,170 B	103	3,291
Tax	G	1		442	378	86	16
County	L	1		NA	NA		
District	L	1		82,410	84,440	102	2,899
Justice	L	1		6,717 A	6,304 A	94	236
State Total							
PENNSYLVANIA							
Court of Common Pleas	G	4	NF	302,739 A	283,949 A	94	2,548
District Justice	L	1		253,139	241,723	95	2,131
Philadelphia Municipal	L	1		125,561 A	124,333 A	99	1,057
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	1		5,729	NA		48
State Total				687,168 *			5,783
PUERTO RICO							
Superior	G	6	R	70,961 A	68,421 A	96	2,015
District	L	1		57,970 A	57,822 A	100	1,646
State Total				128,931 *	126,243 *	98	3,662
RHODE ISLAND							
Superior	G	1		11,470 B	11,733 B	102	1,143
District	L	1		39,462 A	29,745 A	75	3,933
Family	L	6	R	8,825 A	9,141 A		879
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Circuit	G	1		55,151 B	51,518 B	93	1,582
Family	L	6**	NF	67,233	67,174	100	1,928
Magistrate	L	1		158,100	157,189	99	4,534
Probate	L	1		23,234	22,256	96	666
State Total				303,718 *	298,137 *	98	8,711
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Circuit	G	A	B	40,573	33,565 A		5,829
TENNESSEE							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	6**	R	122,672	107,916	88	2,515
General Sessions	L	6**	R	3,547 A	2,878 A	81	73
Juvenile	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
TEXAS							
District	G	6**	NF	454,991 B	448,360 B	99	2,679
County-Level	L	6**	NF	173,863 B	198,889 B	114	1,024
Justice of the Peace	L	1		250,903 A	209,440 A	83	1,477
Municipal	L	1		653 A	653 A	100	4
State Total				880,410 *	857,342 *	97	5,183
UTAH							
District	G	3	R	29,947 B	3,550 C		1,738
Circuit	L	1		103,660	98,865	95	6,017
Justice	L	1		2,241	1,873	84	130
State Total				135,848 *	104,288 *		7,885
VERMONT							
District	G	4***	NC	23,020	20,277	88	4,091
Superior	G	5	NC	12,355	10,884	88	2,195
Probate	L	1		4,496	4,011	89	799
State Total				39,871	35,172	88	7,085
VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	3	R	113,927	96,311	85	1,841
District	L	4	R	1,184,078 A	1,204,089 A	102	19,137
State Total				1,298,005 *	1,300,400 *	100	20,978
WASHINGTON							
Superior	G	6	R	147,111 B	133,720 B	91	3,023
District	L	1		111,579 A	78,042 A	70	2,293
Municipal	L	1		181 A	169 A	93	4
State Total				258,871 *	211,931 *	82	5,319

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

		Support/custody:					
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
WEST VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	5	R	43,658 B	43,687 B	100	2,434
Magistrate	L	1		51,363	47,490 A		2,864
State Total				95,021 *	91,177 *		5,298
WISCONSIN							
Circuit	G	6**	R	341,909 B	333,417 B	98	6,989
WYOMING							
District	G	5	R	10,744 B	9,126 B		2,369
County	L	4	R	18,739	18,528 A		4,131
Justice of the Peace	L	1		4,148	3,582	86	914
State Total				33,631 *	31,236 *		7,414

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with civil jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:

(a) Method of count codes:

1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and, thus, a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution, but URESA cases are counted separately

**Nondissolution support/custody cases are also counted separately

***Court has only URESA jurisdiction

(b) Decree change counted as:

NC = Not counted/collected
NF = New filing
R = Reopened case

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include data from 4 municipalities, and partial data from 16 others.

California—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report for part of the year.
—Justice Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include partial year data from one court.
—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include partial year data from one court.

Colorado—County Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from Denver County.

Georgia—Magistrate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from 16 counties that did not report.
—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed data include cases from 97 of 159 counties and are less than 75% complete.
—State Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include cases from 20 of 62 courts and are less than 75% complete.

Idaho—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **mental health** cases.

Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals, miscellaneous domestic relations,** and some **support/custody** cases.
—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations cases.**
—Municipal Court of Marion County—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **appeals of trial court** cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **paternity** cases.

Maryland—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, small claims,** and **miscellaneous civil** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **civil** filed data do not include motions. Disposed data do not include some **real property rights** and some **small claims** cases.

Michigan—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **adoption, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health,** and **miscellaneous civil** cases and are less than 75% complete.

Montana—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include some **trial court civil appeals** cases.

New Hampshire—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, small claims,** and **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases and are less than 75% complete.

New York—District and City Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.
—Civil Court of the City of New York—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.
—Surrogates' Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include some **miscellaneous estate** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **miscellaneous civil** cases.

Oregon—Justice Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts due to incomplete reporting.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Total **civil** data do not include some **civil appeals** cases.
—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **URESA** cases.
—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **small claims** cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** and **mental health** cases.

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1990. (continued)

—Family Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include **paternity** cases. Disposed data do not include **URESA** and **paternity cases** for the first three quarters of the year, and are less than 75% complete.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate, mental health,** and **administrative agency appeals** cases.

Tennessee—General Sessions Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent cases from 16 of 92 counties, and are less than 75% complete.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 85%.

—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 90%.

Virginia—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include some **domestic relations** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

West Virginia—Magistrate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Wyoming—County Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **trial court civil appeals** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Alaska—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Delaware—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**.

—Family Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **status offense petition** cases. Disposed data also include **child-victim petition** cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal postconviction remedy proceedings** and some **criminal** and **traffic/other violation** cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Louisiana—District Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **estate** cases from the Orphan's Court.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Total **civil** filed data include **extraordinary writs.**

—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed data include **extraordinary writs.**

New Mexico—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

New York—Supreme and County Court—Total **civil** disposed data include **criminal appeals** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal appeals** cases and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

South Carolina—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Texas—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **child-victim petition** cases.

—County-Level Courts—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **child-victim petition** cases.

Utah—District Court—Total **civil** filed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Washington—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs.**

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal appeals** cases.

Wyoming—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal appeals** cases and **postconviction remedy proceedings**. Disposed data also include **juvenile** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total civil disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include most **small claims** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous criminal** cases, but do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include a few **domestic relations** cases.

Nebraska—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include **civil appeals** cases.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings,** but do not include **civil appeals** cases.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **civil** disposed data include **criminal appeals** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include some **adoption** and some **mental health** cases.

Utah—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, domestic relations,** and **estate** cases.

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
ALABAMA							
Circuit	G	G	A	43,945 B	42,687 B	97	1,088
District	L	B	B	138,381 B	139,889 B	101	3,425
Municipal	L	M	B	127,029 C	138,419 C		3,144
State Total				309,355 *	320,995 *		7,656
ALASKA							
Superior	G	B	A	2,718 A	2,733 A	101	494
District	L	B	B	27,209 B	26,517 B	97	4,947
State Total				29,927 *	29,250 *	98	5,441
ARIZONA							
Superior	G	D	A	29,073	26,855	92	793
Justice of the Peace	L	Z	B	70,310	62,159	88	1,918
Municipal	L	Z	B	212,745	223,308	105	5,804
State Total				312,128	312,322	100	8,516
ARKANSAS							
Circuit	G	A	A	32,358	29,623	92	1,377
City	L	A	B	6,303 B	3,621 B	57	268
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	193,556 C	138,311 C	71	8,234
Police	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
CALIFORNIA							
Superior	G	B	A	154,482 A	143,421 A	93	519
Justice	L	B	B	55,020 C	46,442 C	84	185
Municipal	L	B	B	973,614 C	815,504 C	84	3,272
State Total				1,183,116 *	1,005,367 *	85	3,976
COLORADO							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	D	B	21,054 B	21,574 B	102	639
County	L	D	B	81,153 C	47,031 C		2,463
State Total				102,207 *	68,605 *		3,102
CONNECTICUT							
Superior	G	E	A	176,301 C	209,356 B		5,363
DELAWARE							
Superior	G	B	A	6,833 B	6,775 B	99	1,026
Alderman's	L	A	B	5,676 B	5,368 B	95	852
Court of Common Pleas	L	A	B	4,848 A	NA		728
Family	L	B	B	5,255	5,416	103	789
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	63,124	63,279	100	9,476
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	A	B	20,386 C	20,283 C	99	3,060
State Total				106,122 *			15,930

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Superior	G	B	G	40,310 A	40,078 A	99	6,642
FLORIDA							
Circuit	G	E	A	193,740	168,095 A		1,497
County	L	A	B	439,131	366,722	84	3,394
State Total				632,871	534,817 *		4,892
GEORGIA							
Superior	G	G	A	92,063 B	86,725 B	94	1,421
Civil	L	M	M	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Probate	L	B	A	3,252 A	2,991 A	92	50
State	L	G	A	71,139 A	67,528 A	95	1,098
State Total							
HAWAII							
Circuit	G	G	B	7,917 A	6,546 A	83	714
District	L	A	C	39,030 A	37,572 A	96	3,522
State Total				46,947 *	44,118 *	94	4,236
IDAHO							
District	G	D	F	67,520 B	66,545 B	99	6,707
ILLINOIS							
Circuit	G	G	A	447,565 C	514,031 C	115	3,915
INDIANA							
Superior and Circuit	G	B	A	112,555 A	97,532 A	87	2,030
City and Town	L	B	F	53,150 B	41,589 B	78	959
County	L	B	F	38,998	37,155	95	703
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	B	F	39,332	37,564	96	709
State Total				244,035 *	213,840 *	88	4,402
IOWA							
District	G	B	A	60,942 A	59,996 A	98	2,195
KANSAS							
District	G	B	C	40,376	42,235	105	1,630
Municipal	L	B	C	12,415	11,066	89	501
State Total				52,791	53,301	101	2,131

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
KENTUCKY							
Circuit	G	B	A	15,111	14,541	96	410
District	L	B	F	168,401 B	153,520 B	91	4,570
State Total				183,512 *	168,061 *	92	4,980
LOUISIANA							
District	G	Z	A	155,490	NA		3,685
City and Parish	L	B	F	148,376	112,998	76	3,516
State Total				303,866			7,201
MAINE							
Superior	G	E	A	11,003 C	10,179 C	93	896
District	L	E	F	40,108 C	38,307 C	96	3,266
State Total				51,111 *	48,486 *	95	4,162
MARYLAND							
Circuit	G	B	A	60,229 B	56,072 B	93	1,260
District	L	B	A	213,306	221,421	104	4,461
State Total				273,535 *	277,493 *	101	5,721
MASSACHUSETTS							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	D	B	391,658 A	319,280 C		6,510
MICHIGAN							
Circuit	G	B	A	45,616	45,540	100	491
Recorder's Court of Detroit	L	B	A	14,480	14,121	98	156
District	L	B	B	271,347 C	257,715 C	95	2,919
Municipal	L	B	B	1,944 C	1,939 C	100	21
State Total				333,387 *	319,315 *	96	3,587
MINNESOTA							
District	G	B	B	178,504 C	164,395 C	92	4,080
MISSISSIPPI							
Circuit	G	B	B	14,953	NA		581
County	L	B	B	5,090 B	NA		198
Justice	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
MISSOURI							
Circuit	G	G	G	139,971	121,410	87	2,735
MONTANA							
District	G	G	A	3,771 B	4,732 B	125	472
City	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
NEBRASKA							
District	G	B	A	6,524 B	6,337 B	97	413
County	L	B	F	81,562 B	78,594 B	96	5,167
State Total				88,086 *	84,931 *	96	5,581
NEVADA							
District	G	Z	A	6 A	NA		0
Justice	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Superior	G	A	A	12,756	11,929	94	1,150
District	L	A	B	41,736	NA		3,763
Municipal	L	A	B	615	NA		55
State Total				55,107			4,968
NEW JERSEY							
Superior	G	B	A	61,098	54,471	89	790
Municipal	L	B	B	404,847	386,095	95	5,237
State Total				465,945	440,566	95	6,028
NEW MEXICO							
District	G	E	A	11,502	10,740	93	759
Magistrate	L	E	B	NA	NA		
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	E	B	63,439 B	63,694 B	100	4,187
State Total							
NEW YORK							
Supreme and County	G	E	A	79,322 A	77,628 A	98	441
District and City	L	E	D	238,687 B	226,854 B	95	1,327
Town and Village Justice	L	E	B	NA	NA		
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	E	D	242,710	229,932	95	1,349
State Total							
NORTH CAROLINA							
Superior	G	E	A	108,784	99,858	92	1,641
District	L	E	G	544,588 C	527,698 C	97	8,216
State Total				653,372 *	627,556 *	96	9,857
NORTH DAKOTA							
District	G	B	A	1,775 B	1,692 B	95	278
County	L	E	F	18,248	18,580	102	2,857
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
OHIO							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	C	55,949	55,057	98	516
County	L	B	E	45,041 B	44,869 B	100	415
Mayor's	L	B	E	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	E	462,400 B	458,645 B	99	4,263
State Total							
OKLAHOMA							
District	G	J	A	75,352 B	67,458 B	90	2,395
OREGON							
Circuit	G	E	G	28,523 A	27,430 A	96	1,004
District	L	E	G	75,788	69,633	92	2,666
Justice	L	E	B	7,392 C	7,588 C	103	260
Municipal	L	A	B	34,631 C	30,378 C	88	1,218
State Total				146,334 *	135,029 *	92	5,148
PENNSYLVANIA							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	A	139,699 A	140,125 A	100	1,176
District Justice	L	B	B	514,919 B	446,381 B	87	4,334
Philadelphia Municipal	L	B	B	42,246 C	41,741 C	99	356
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	B	B	16,108 B	NA		136
State Total				712,972 *			6,001
PUERTO RICO							
Superior	G	J	B	35,539	33,544	94	1,009
District	L	J	B	47,069 C	46,998 C	100	1,337
State Total				82,608 *	80,542 *	97	2,346
RHODE ISLAND							
Superior	G	D	A	6,671	6,246	94	665
District	L	D	B	46,728 B	42,476 B	91	4,657
State Total				53,399 *	48,722 *	91	5,321
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Circuit	G	B	A	101,461	91,633	90	2,910
Magistrate	L	B	E	159,030 C	158,603 C	100	4,561
Municipal	L	B	E	93,638	NA		2,686
State Total				354,129 *			10,157
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Circuit	G	A	B	36,128	15,432 A		5,191
TENNESSEE							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	Z	A	64,855 A	53,115 A	82	1,330
General Sessions	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
State Total							

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
TEXAS							
District	G	B	A	168,269	161,022	96	991
County-Level	L	B	F	433,337	356,401 A		2,551
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	573,604 A	420,056 A	73	3,377
Municipal	L	A	B	615,218 A	374,739 A	61	3,622
State Total				1,790,428 *	1,312,218 *		10,540
UTAH							
District	G	J	A	4,608 B	NA		267
Circuit	L	B	A	44,917 C	NA		2,607
Justice	L	B	B	47,035 B	46,162 B	98	2,730
State Total				96,560 *			5,605
VERMONT							
District	G	D	C	22,034 B	22,187 B	101	3,915
Superior	G	B	A	53	128	242	9
State Total				22,087 *	22,315 *	101	3,925
VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	A	A	97,266 B	96,099 B	99	1,572
District	L	A	E	476,372 A	496,554 A	104	7,699
State Total				573,638 *	592,653 *	103	9,271
WASHINGTON							
Superior	G	G	A	28,047	25,584	91	576
District	L	C	B	133,551 A	110,490 A	83	2,744
Municipal	L	C	B	97,667 A	45,635 A		2,007
State Total				259,265 *	181,709 *		5,327
WEST VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	J	A	6,820	6,884	101	380
Magistrate	L	J	E	128,287	139,184	108	7,153
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
WISCONSIN							
Circuit	G	D	C	89,648 A	84,823 A	95	1,833
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
WYOMING							
District	G	J	A	1,503 A	1,531 A	102	331
County	L	J	B	10,383	NA		2,289
Justice of the Peace	L	J	B	3,991	NA		880
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with criminal jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

M = Missing data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Single defendant—single charge
B = Single defendant—single incident (one/more charges)
C = Single defendant—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
D = Single defendant—one/more incidents
E = Single defendant—content varies with prosecutor
F = One/more defendants—single charge
G = One/more defendants—single incident (one/more charges)
H = One/more defendants—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
J = One/more defendants—one/more incidents
K = One/more defendants—content varies with prosecutor
L = Inconsistent during reporting year
Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = At the filing of the information/indictment
B = At the filing of the complaint
C = When defendant enters plea/initial appearance
D = When docketed
E = At issuing of warrant
F = At filing of information/complaint
G = Varies (at filing of the complaint, information, indictment)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alaska—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

California—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report for part of the year.

Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total **criminal** filed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases reported with **traffic/other violation** data.

District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Florida—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Georgia—Probate Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include cases from 51 of 159 counties, do not include **DWI/DUI** cases, which are reported with **traffic/other violation** data, and are less than 75% complete.

—State Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include cases from 21 of 62 courts, do not include some **DWI/DUI** and **misdemeanor** cases, which are reported with **traffic/other violation** data, and are less than 75% complete.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases.

—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Kansas—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of less than 75%.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **criminal** filed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Nevada—District Court—Total **criminal** filed data do not include **felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI,** and **miscellaneous criminal** cases and are less than 75% complete.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **criminal appeals** cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include most **misdemeanor** and some **criminal appeals** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Courts-- Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous criminal** cases.

Texas—County-Level Courts—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include some **criminal appeals** cases.

—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 85%.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 90%.

Virginia—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court and are less than 75% complete.

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** and some **DWI/DUI** cases.

Wyoming—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Alaska—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **moving traffic violation** cases and all **ordinance violation** cases.

Arkansas—City Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Colorado—District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **criminal** disposed data represent some double counting of cases disposed in geographical area locations by transfer to district location.

Delaware—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

—Alderman's Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Georgia—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include all **traffic/other violation** cases.

Idaho—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **ordinance violation** and some unclassified traffic cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases and **sentence review only proceedings.**

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings.**

Mississippi—County Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings.**

Montana—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **trial court civil appeals** cases.

Nebraska—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **civil appeals** cases.

—County Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

New York—District and City Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

North Dakota—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **sentence review only** and **postconviction remedy proceedings.**

Ohio—County Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oklahoma—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Pennsylvania—District Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **moving traffic violation** and **ordinance violation** cases.

Utah—District Court—Total **criminal** filed data include some **postconviction remedy** and all **sentence review only proceedings.**

—Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **moving traffic violation** cases.

Vermont—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Virginia—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include data that were unavailable from a few municipalities. Filed data also do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include data from several municipalities.

California—Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, and some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases and partial year data from one court.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers and some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases, and partial year data from one court.

Colorado—County Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include cases from Denver County Court. Disposed data also do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Delaware—Municipal Court of Wilmington—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include most **DWI/DUI** cases.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings** and some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** and **miscellaneous criminal** cases, and some reinstated and transferred cases.

Maine—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, and **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**, but do not include **DWI/DUI** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include **DWI/DUI** and some **misdemeanor** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **criminal** disposed data include some **moving traffic violation** cases, but do not include some cases from the Boston Municipal, Juvenile, District, and Housing Court Departments.

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1990. (continued)

Michigan—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Minnesota—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include some **DWI/DUI** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Oregon—Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include data from several courts due to incomplete reporting.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Puerto Rico—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous juvenile** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases. (Filed data were estimated using percentages provided by the AOC.)

Utah—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **DWI/DUI** and some **miscellaneous criminal** cases

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990

State/court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA						
District	L	1	238,167	249,890	105	5,894
Municipal	L	1	727,112 C	506,638 A		17,995
State Total			965,279 *	756,528 *		23,890
ALASKA						
District	L	3	55,564 A	55,564 A	100	10,102
ARIZONA						
Justice of the Peace	L	1	426,217	415,260	97	11,629
Municipal	L	1	842,753	849,675	101	22,993
State Total			1,268,970	1,264,935	100	
ARKANSAS						
City	L	1	17,400 A	8,352 A	48	740
Municipal	L	1	333,843 A	210,381 A	63	14,202
Police	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
CALIFORNIA						
Justice	L	3	443,413 C	369,380 C	83	1,490
Municipal	L	3	13,800,663 C	12,227,168 C	89	46,373
State Total			14,244,076 *	12,596,548 *	88	
COLORADO						
County	L	2	211,645 A	201,123 C		6,424
Municipal	L	1	603,924 A	NA		18,332
State Total			815,569 *			
CONNECTICUT						
Superior	G	6	246,420 C	254,783		7,497
DELAWARE						
Alderman's	L	4	22,631 A	22,144 A	98	3,397
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	34,724 B	38,288 B		5,212
Family	L	2	360	447	124	54
Justice of the Peace	L	2	164,507	163,680	99	24,695
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	26,955 C	26,561 C	99	4,046
State Total			249,177 *	251,120 *	101	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						
Superior	G	6	19,425 B	19,622 B	101	3,201
FLORIDA						
County	L	5	3,763,322	2,844,437	76	29,088

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
GEORGIA						
Superior	G	2	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	11,915 A	10,360 A	87	184
Magistrate	L	2	85,541 A	69,511 A	81	1,320
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	91,283 C	87,353 C	96	1,409
State	L	2	160,959 C	164,805 C	102	2,485
State Total						
HAWAII						
Circuit	G	2	363 A	256 A	71	33
District	L	4	826,174 B	835,676 B	101	74,549
State Total			826,537 *	835,932 *	101	
IDAHO						
District	G	3	250,652	250,847	100	24,897
ILLINOIS						
Circuit	G	4	5,402,940 C	5,139,428 C	95	47,267
INDIANA						
Superior and Circuit	G	3	268,298	247,572	92	4,839
City and Town	L	3	177,637 A	169,876 A	96	3,204
County	L	4	80,089	72,872	91	1,445
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	93,250	89,171	96	1,682
State Total			619,274 *	579,491 *	94	
IOWA						
District	G	3	727,023 B	759,147 B	104	26,182
KANSAS						
District	G	4	251,756 A	250,277 A	99	10,161
Municipal	L	1	373,548 A	319,587 A	86	15,077
State Total			625,304 *	569,864 *	91	
KENTUCKY						
District	L	3	317,542 A	311,184 A	98	8,616
LOUISIANA						
District	G	1	167,797	NA		3,976
City and Parish	L	1	442,709	398,935	90	10,491
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Mayor's	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MAINE						
Superior	G	2	3,100 C	2,854 C	92	252
District	L	4	203,828 B	204,430 B	100	16,599
State Total			206,928 *	207,284 *	100	
MARYLAND						
District	L	1	1,159,545	1,028,899 A		24,251
MASSACHUSETTS						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	1,122,068 B	178,234 C		18,650
MICHIGAN						
District	L	4	2,530,552 C	2,441,306 C	96	27,224
Municipal	L	4	40,326 C	38,938 C	97	434
Probate	L	2	19,025	18,814	99	205
State Total			2,589,903 *	2,499,058 *	96	
MINNESOTA						
District	G	4	1,508,674 C	1,489,946 C	99	34,483
MISSISSIPPI						
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
MISSOURI						
Circuit	G	2	410,665 A	405,690 A	99	8,025
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
MONTANA						
City	L	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEBRASKA						
County	L	1	286,682 A	288,855 A	101	18,163
NEVADA						
Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
District	L	4	242,466	NA		21,859
Municipal	L	4	3,064	NA		276
State Total			245,530			

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NEW JERSEY						
Municipal	L	4	6,011,838	6,287,041	105	77,771
NEW MEXICO						
Magistrate	L	3	NA	NA		
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	3	278,319 A	213,928 A	77	18,370
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW YORK						
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	95,808 A	92,306 A	96	533
District and City	L	4	1,085,906 A	1,085,906 A	100	6,036
Town and Village Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NORTH CAROLINA						
District	L	6	1,166,325 C	1,134,277 C	97	17,595
NORTH DAKOTA						
District	G	4	539	NA		84
County	L	1	51,986 A	51,970 A	100	8,138
Municipal	L	1	NA	46,104 C		
State Total						
OHIO						
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	111,693	112,943	101	1,030
County	L	5	199,833 A	196,008 A	98	1,842
Mayor's	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	5	1,521,939 A	1,517,333 A	100	14,031
State Total						
OKLAHOMA						
District	G	2	217,360 A	201,490 A	93	6,910
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
OREGON						
District	L	1	342,508 A	324,879 A	95	12,050
Justice	L	3	106,733 A	108,508 A	102	3,755
Municipal	L	3	223,382 C	203,925 C	91	7,859
State Total			672,623 *	637,312 *	95	
PENNSYLVANIA						
District Justice	L	4	1,514,961 A	1,367,294 A	90	12,750
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	29,287 B	28,751 B	98	246
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	265,854 A	179,085 A		2,238
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	345,167 A	NA		2,905
State Total			2,155,269 *			18

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990 (continued)

State/court name	Jurisdiction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
PUERTO RICO						
District	L	2	79,395 C	78,625 C	99	2,255
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
RHODE ISLAND						
District	L	2	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
SOUTH CAROLINA						
Family	L	2	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	4	612,870 C	609,314 C	99	17,577
Municipal	L	4	337,270	425,918 B		9,673
State Total						
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Circuit	G		140,667	141,641 B		20,211
TENNESSEE						
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	NA	NA		
General Sessions	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
TEXAS						
County-Level	L	2	24,776	87,467 B		146
Justice of the Peace	L	4	1,692,681 A	1,606,021 A	95	9,965
Municipal	L	4	5,541,740 A	4,247,278 A	77	32,624
State Total			7,259,197 *	5,940,766 *		
UTAH						
Circuit	L	4	177,644 B	NA		10,311
Justice	L	4	258,863 A	255,917 A	99	15,025
Juvenile	L	2	524	582	111	30
State Total			437,031 *			
VERMONT						
District	G	2	99,478 A	93,116 A	94	17,677
VIRGINIA						
Circuit	G	2	NA	NA		
District	L	4	1,699,073 B	1,712,294 B	101	27,460
State Total						
WASHINGTON						
District	L	4	666,642 A	699,926 A	105	13,698
Municipal	L	4	1,077,300 A	437,053 A		22,136
State Total			1,743,942 *	1,136,979 *		

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes	Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
WEST VIRGINIA						
Magistrate	L	2	150,619	140,070	93	8,398
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
WISCONSIN						
Circuit	G	3	533,384 B	533,353 B	100	10,904
Municipal	L	3	NA	328,289 C		
State Total				861,642 *		
WYOMING						
County	L	1	77,847	88,818 B		17,162
Justice of the Peace	L	1	22,621	26,085 B		4,987
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

NOTE: Parking violations are defined as part of the traffic/other violation caseload. However, states and courts within a state differ to the extent in which parking violations are processed through the courts. A code opposite the name of each court indicates the manner in which parking cases are reported by the court. Qualifying footnotes in Table 11 do not repeat the information provided by the code, and, thus, refer only to the status of the statistics on moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and ordinance violations. All state trial courts with traffic/other violation jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

1 = Parking data are unavailable
2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
3 = Only contested parking cases are included
4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled administratively; contested parking cases are handled by the court

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases and data that were unavailable from a few municipalities.

Alaska—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases and all **ordinance violation** cases.

Arkansas—City Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.
—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases and are missing all data from 4 municipalities and partial data from 16 others.

Colorado—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data do not include cases from Denver County Court.
—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data do not include cases from 18 courts.

Delaware—Alderman's Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Georgia—Magistrate Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from 16 counties that did not report.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases.

Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **ordinance violation** and some other **traffic** cases.

Kansas—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include juvenile **traffic** cases.
—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include parking cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Maryland—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data do not include **parking** and **ordinance violation** cases.

Missouri—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include those **ordinance violation** cases heard by municipal judges.

Nebraska—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** and **parking** cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County-- Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

New York—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic,** and some **ordinance violation** cases and are less than 75% complete.
—District and City Courts—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

North Dakota—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases and are less than 75% complete.

Ohio—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.
—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oklahoma—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oregon—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.
—Justice Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts due to incomplete reporting.

Pennsylvania—District Justice Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.
—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking,** and **miscellaneous traffic** cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases.
—Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total **traffic/ other violation** filed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 85%.
—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 90%.

Utah—Justice Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases.

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1990. (continued)

Vermont—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than one-half of the total case filings for the municipal courts statewide. Disposed data are therefore less than 75% complete.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include some **misdemeanor** cases. Disposed data include all **felony** and **misdemeanor** cases.

District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Hawaii—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Maine—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include some **misdemeanor** and all **DWI/DUI** cases.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** and some **misdemeanor** cases.

South Carolina—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **misdemeanor** and **DWI/DUI** cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include some **misdemeanor** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

Texas—County-Level Courts—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include some **criminal appeals** cases.

Utah—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include some **miscellaneous criminal** cases.

Virginia—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include uncontested first offense **DWI/DUI** cases.

Wyoming—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **misdemeanor** and **DWI/DUI** cases.

—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI,** and **criminal appeals** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases and data that were unavailable from a few municipalities.

California—Justice Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include some **ordinance violation** cases and partial year data from one court.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include some **ordinance violation** cases, and partial year data from one court.

Colorado—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include data from Denver County Court.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Delaware—Municipal Court of Wilmington—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include most **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Georgia—State Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include some **DWI/DUI** and **misdemeanor** cases, represent data from 22 of 62 courts, and are less than 75% complete.

—Probate Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, represent data from 51 of 159 counties, and are less than 75% complete.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include some **ordinance violation** cases, and some reinstated and transferred cases.

Maine—Superior Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** and some **criminal appeals** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total disposed data include some **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** and most **moving traffic** cases.

Michigan—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Minnesota—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include some **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include some **ordinance violation** cases.

North Dakota—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation and parking** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Oregon—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Puerto Rico—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include cases from several municipalities.

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990

State/court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
ALABAMA						
Circuit	G	A	16,221	14,119	87	1,532
District	L	A	23,385	22,739	97	2,209
State Total			39,606	36,858	93	
ALASKA						
Superior	G	C	2,190	1,766	81	1,271
District	L	I	121	77	64	70
State Total			2,311	1,843	80	
ARIZONA						
Superior	G	C	11,813	11,944	101	1,204
ARKANSAS						
Chancery and Probate	G	C	11,579	9,916	86	1,864
CALIFORNIA						
Superior	G	C	92,998 A	123,269 A	133	1,200
COLORADO						
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	A	18,006	15,065	84	2,091
CONNECTICUT						
Superior	G	F	13,996	14,099	101	1,867
DELAWARE						
Family	L	C	8,465 A	8,814 A		5,182
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						
Superior	G	B	13,297	6,685 A		11,356
FLORIDA						
Circuit	G	A	113,355	75,668	67	3,955
GEORGIA						
Juvenile	L	A	64,540 A	50,416 A	78	3,736
HAWAII						
Circuit	G	F	18,850	18,573	99	6,729
IDAHO						
District	G	C	8,902	8,760	98	2,886
ILLINOIS						
Circuit	G	C	38,171 A	33,769 A	88	1,296

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
INDIANA						
Superior and Circuit	G	C	31,649 B	26,477 B	84	2,174
Probate	L	C	688 B	695 B	101	47
State Total			32,337 *	27,172 *	84	
IOWA						
District	G	A	8,060	NA		1,121
KANSAS						
District	G	C	15,401 B	15,147 B	98	2,328
KENTUCKY						
District	L	C	37,834 B	33,420 B	88	3,965
LOUISIANA						
District	G	C	7,655	NA		624
Family and Juvenile	G	C	20,237	16,378	81	1,649
City and Parish	L	C	6,305	5,621	89	514
State Total			34,197			
MAINE						
District	L	C	5,082	4,544	89	1,645
MARYLAND						
Circuit	G	C	36,566	32,940	90	3,146
District	L	C	3,310	3,296	100	285
State Total			39,876	36,236	91	
MASSACHUSETTS						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	C	41,025	20,772 C		3,032
MICHIGAN						
Probate	L	C	64,128	55,817	87	2,608
MINNESOTA						
District	G	C	37,244	36,995	99	3,192
MISSISSIPPI						
Chancery	G	C	3,647 A	NA		488
County	L	C	7,042	NA		943
Family	L	C	1,077 B	NA		144
State Total			11,766 *			
MISSOURI						
Circuit	G	C	19,062	18,525	97	1,450
MONTANA						
District	G	C	1,565	1,251	80	705

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo-sitions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
NEBRASKA						
County	L	C	4,379	4,325	99	1,021
Separate Juvenile	L	C	2,484	NA		579
State Total			6,863			
NEVADA						
District	G	C	NA	NA		
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
District	L	C	7,521	NA		2,698
NEW JERSEY						
Superior	G	F	132,433	129,429	98	7,360
NEW MEXICO						
District	G	C	9,191	9,157	100	2,057
NEW YORK						
Family	L	C	60,697	64,9[illegible]7	107	1,425
NORTH CAROLINA						
District	L	C	28,074	28,839	103	1,748
NORTH DAKOTA						
District	G	C	10,136	9,341 B		5,779
OHIO						
Court of Common Pleas	G	E	145,017	144,790	100	5,180
OKLAHOMA						
District	G	G	NA	NA		
OREGON						
Circuit	G	C	19,723	NA		2,724
PENNSYLVANIA						
Court of Common Pleas	G	F	57,285	56,409	98	2,050
PUERTO RICO						
Superior	G	C	8,388	8,294	99	
RHODE ISLAND						
Family	L	C	7,936	7,404	93	3,516
SOUTH CAROLINA						
Family	L	C	17,376 B	17,063 B	98	1,888
Magistrate	L	I	NA	NA		
State Total						

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990. (continued)

State/court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Circuit	G		4,054	NA		2,043
TENNESSEE						
General Sessions	L	B	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	B	NA	NA		
State Total						
TEXAS						
District	G	C	13,758 A	14,553 A	106	285
County-Level	L	C	2,877 A	2,835 A	99	59
State Total			16,635 *	17,388 *	105	
UTAH						
Juvenile	L	C	38,118	37,741	99	6,075
VERMONT						
District	G	C	1,771	1,706	96	1,238
VIRGINIA						
District	L	C	97,400 B	94,825 B	97	6,473
WASHINGTON						
Superior	G	A	26,346	25,131	95	2,089
WEST VIRGINIA						
Circuit	G	C	6,668	6,393	96	1,503
WISCONSIN						
Circuit	G	C	38,049	37,530	99	2,952
WYOMING						
District	G	C	1,576	NA		1,163

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1990. (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with juvenile jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Filing of complaint
B = At initial hearing (intake)
C = Filing of petition
E = Issuance of warrant
F = At referral
G = Varies

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report for part of the year.

Delaware—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include **status offense** cases. Disposed data also do not include **child-victim petition** cases.

District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data do not include most **child-victim petition** cases and are less than 75% complete.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Total **juvenile** filed data do not include cases from three counties.

Texas—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include **child-victim petition** cases.

—County-Level Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include **child-victim petition** cases and are less than 75% complete.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** and some **support/custody cases.**

—Probate Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Kansas—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include juvenile **traffic/other violation** cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **paternity** cases.

Mississippi—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed data include **adoption and paternity** cases.

North Dakota—District Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.

South Carolina—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.

Virginia—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include some **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **juvenile** disposed data include juvenile **traffic** cases from the District Court Department, but do not include most cases from the Juvenile Court Department and some cases from the District Court Department. The data are less than 75% complete.

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	320	334	318	368	363	342	347
Court of Appeals	467	446	505	469	435	404	429
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	105 A	81 A	118 A	116 A	112 A	159 A	92
Court of Appeals	2,753	2,843	3,352	3,451	3,902	3,858	4,491
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	479 C	439 C	411 C	459 C	400 C	443 C	482 C
Court of Appeals	855	846	951	949	899	1,079	1,096
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	222 A	284 A	236 A	315 A	319 A	380 A	522
Courts of Appeal	10,118	10,252	10,035	9,985	10,954	11,542	13,012
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	256	200	205	214	197	205	228
Court of Appeals	1,580	1,626	1,862	1,930	1,946	2,012	2,269
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	58	86	274	281
Appellate Court	1,362 B	934 B	953 B	945	995	985	1,107
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	587	597	629	581	510	642	617
District Cts. of Appeal	11,770	12,262	13,502	13,861	14,195	13,924	14,386
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	663 B	692 B	616 B	640 B	639 B	674	690
Court of Appeals	2,070 B	1,946 B	2,666 B	2,071 B	2306 B	2,361 B	2,384
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	471 B	496 B	604 B	616 B	715 B	650 B	489
Intermediate Ct. of App.	101	132	132	134	120	140	138
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	349 B	348 B	288 B	289 B	382 B	366 B	349
Court of Appeals	146	149	174	181	227	221	215
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	118	167	218	176	275	153	199
Appellate Court	7,134 B	7,611 B	7,550 B	7,954 B	8,119 B	8,139 B	8,191 B
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	409	NA	336	199
Court of Appeals	1,150 B	1,037 B	1,073 B	1,149 B	1,222 B	1,516	1,966
IOWA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	1,528	877 B	801 B	1,303	1,211
Court of Appeals	569	730	552	618	728	678	743
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	169	177	189	214	347	179	165
Court of Appeals	1,041 B	1,087 B	1,131 B	1,127 B	1,176 B	1,154 B	1,201 B
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	221	282	251	261	258	304	281
Court of Appeals	2,725	3,156	2,769	2,691	2,665	2,712	2,569
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	147 B	79 B	112	135	124	108	82
Courts of Appeal	3,870 B	3,578 B	3,695	3,846	3,967	3,562	3,835

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
347	287	355	291	394	298	349
449	406	589	429	403	431	387
111 A	87 A	70 A	86 A	79 A	133 A	162
2,598	2,953	3,445	3,372	3,240	3,478	3,659
448 C	451 C	404 C	416 C	457 C	421 C	448
827	895	840	983	827	978	1,016
NA	NA	NA	73 C	101 C	46	20
NA	NA	NA	10,669	10,577	13,886	14,584
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,411	1,396	1,590	1,602	2,028	2,193	2,105
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	296 B	285
568 B	877 B	1,055 B	893	1,026	1,135	1,107
530	639	644	548	534	580	595
11,941	12,540	12,847	13,591	13,559	14,073	14,503
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	502
2,090 B	NA	NA	1,961 B	1,986 B	1,918 B	1,535
454 B	516 B	691 B	579 B	609 B	749 B	565
125	105	132	142	129	138	120
352 B	333 B	359 B	295 B	332 B	347 B	369
175	282	174	174	162	231	204
120	152	207	152	292	191	185
6,891 B	6,961 B	7,007 B	7,451 B	7,648 B	7,722 B	7,951 B
357	359	470	384	380	418	259
1,137 B	1,062 B	1,116 B	1,130 B	1,137 B	1,334	1,657
846 B	868 B	933 B	944 B	899 B	970 B	947 B
532	637	589	578	669	799	662
343	344	331	333	459	290	267
1,045 B	989 B	1,106 B	1,143 B	1,174 B	1,218 B	1,152 B
280	259	253	271	302	305	278
2,696	2,757	2,661	2,304	2,243	2,438	2,463
NA	NA	71	123	134	105	95
NA	NA	3,944	3,380	3,429	3,646	3,517

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	220 B	218 B	238 B	233 B	242 B	205 B	261
Court of Spec. Appeals	1,777	1,642	1,644	1,714	1,754	1,841	2,006
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	141	129	86	72	96	75	86
Appeals Court	1,375 B	1,301 B	1,352 B	1,434 B	1,394 B	1,451 B	1,568
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	5	3	4	5	4	4	2
Court of Appeals	4,796	5,187	NA	8,186 B	8,559 B	10,951 B	12,340 B
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	175	241	271	248	282
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	1,767	1,924	2,065	1,772	2,157
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	161 B	187 B	164 B	93 B	63	227	247
Court of Appeals	2,852	3,166	3,147	3,055	3,315	3,659	3,565
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	368	227	236	349	357	413	387
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	6,224 B	6,037 B	6,106 B	6,277 B	6,458 B	6,492 B	7,007
NEW MEXICO							
Supreme Court	322	303	325	320	296	368	297
Court of Appeals	572	662	671	604	648	777	797
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	230	222	249	182	147	109	116
Court of Appeals	1,314 B	1,375 B	1,381 B	1,265 B	1,351 B	1,378	1,378
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	370	338	377	382	367	397	429
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	9	0	13
OHIO							
Supreme Court	338	442	491	422	500	535	682
Court of Appeals	9,383	9,522	9,683	9,983	10,005	10,771	10,721
OREGON							
Supreme Court	205	180	145	176	192	217	194
Court of Appeals	3,828	3,981	4,146	4,305	3,739	3,795	4,584
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	479	451	519	511	624	463	602
Court of Appeals	404	391	351	440	307	448	370
UTAH							
Supreme Court	640	628	623	474	443	498	566
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	560 A	721	764	629
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13
Court of Appeals	NC	538	419	422	455	443	464
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	228 B	194 B	162 B	135 B	123 B	101 B	148 B
Court of Appeals	2,866	3,270	3,535	3,238	3,157	3,222	3,653
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	98	91	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	2,239	2,358	2,053	2,185	2,147	2,355	2,853 B

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
230 B 1,877	232 B 1,807	188 B 1,552	222 B 1,777	183 B 1,762	221 B 1,811	244 1,808
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 1,171
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 7,502 B	NA 8,497 B	NA 8,983 B	NA 10,503 B
NA NA	NA NA	157 1,848	204 1,916	250 1,949	242 1,872	260 2,042
158 B 3,159	170 B 3,177	115 B 3,206	133 B 3,259	60 3,145	227 3,331	267 3,568
408 6,262 B	251 6,056 B	237 6,611 B	381 6,400 B	349 6,494 B	383 6,531 B	401 6,284
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 853 B	NA 690 B	365 A 741 B	313 763 B
219 1,412 B	183 1,464 B	245 1,626 B	192 1,310 B	213 1,272 B	95 1,188 B	102 1,366
331 NC	335 NC	357 NC	357 NC	405 13	381 0	439 7
320 9,124	383 9,491	414 9,296	380 9,393	462 9,668	457 9,871	531 10,928
390 B 3,759	296 B 3,784	262 B 4,014	313 B 4,232	322 B 3,985	301 B 3,601	271 B 3,725
NA 441	NA 398	NA 374	596 B 368	385 B 367	537 B 377	537 367
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	521 B NA	617 B NA	642 B 785 B	556 B 691 B
NA NC	NA 216	NA 476	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	13 NA
176 B 2,724	184 B 2,994	209 B 3,238	148 B 3,870	154 B 3,289	127 B 2,902	139 B 3,086
NA 2,223	NA 2,501	NA 2,178	NA 2,206	NA 2,368	NA 2,414	NA 2,612

(continued on next page)

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with no intermediate appellate court							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	331 B	406 B	417 B	397 B	473 B	517 B	483 B
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	1,810 B	1,770 B	1,556	1,500	1,624	1,515	1,650
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	61 A	NA	59 A	631 C	528 C	540	622 C
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	838	815	1,010	891	919	773	961
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	566	546	597	627	633
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	1,002 B	997 B	1,014 B	1,196 B	1,103 B	1,497 B	1,207 B
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	799	777	853	856	991	997	1,089
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	409	403	389	323	410	455	465
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	344 B	358 B	363 B	422 B	428 B	387 B	403 B
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	623 B	575	550	538	620	619	590
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	331	306	342	320	357	321	314
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	745	798	827	998	829	908	998
Court of Civil Appeals	532	548	530	584	529	556	651
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,400	1,520	1,537	1,695	1,784	2,132	2,042
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	680	409	324 B	330 B	302
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	NA	135 C	NA	9,205 B	10,740 B	11,338 B	10,577 B
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	2,208 B	2,192 B	2,461 B	2,245 B
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	789	1,128	788	1,105	809	862	1,033
Court of Appeals	788	635	971	931	1,362	1,373	1,323
Court of Criminal Appeals	502	NA	NA	980 B	1,046 B	1,192 B	1,445 B
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	268	142	92	80	121	94	225
Commonwealth Court	4,012	3,554	3,737 A	3,030 A	3,164 A	3,115 A	3,491
Superior Court	5,793 B	5,878 B	5,989 B	6,137 B	6,439 B	6,040 B	6,291

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
354 B	373 B	415 B	419 B	407 B	480 B	553 B
1,510 B	1,568 B	1,568 B	1,595	1,602	1,598	1,798
494 A	506 A	521 A	495 A	507 C	452	475 C
637	853	912	831	793	840	944
NA	NA	355	NA	NA	618 B	624
NA	NA	NA	964 B	1,094 B	1,277 B	1,022 B
788	867	854	1,013	922	1,047	1,057
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
447	393	478	402	403	396	476
NA	NA	NA	NA	463 B	484 B	434 B
532 B	506	535	527	593	624	685
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
250	347	327	302	334	363	287
NA	797	940	1,017	994	620	569
536	516	548	518	576	528	641
1,480	1,424	1,745	1,819	1,774	1,927	1,904
391	401	350	369	369 B	295	287
NA	135 C	NA	13,392 B	13,225 B	14,534 B	12,540 B
NA	NA	NA	2,133 B	2,124 B	2,034 B	2,179 B
229 A	149 A	174 A	813 B	852 B	NA	NA
801	693	856	728	1,215	1,337	1,038
645	404	536	626	693	773	774
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	4,053 B	4,392 B	3,973 B	3,519 B
5,908 B	8,355 B	7,410 B	6,253 B	6,416 B	6,218 B	6,079

(continued on next page)

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	216	139	146	170	161	161	107
Court of Appeals	951	999	1,173	1,003	889	889	980
Court of Criminal Appeals	868 B	850 B	885 B	811 B	994	994	1,002
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	0	1	2	3	3	3	3
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,959	1,998	2,221	2,450	3,578	3,504	2,281
Courts of Appeals	7,386	7,954	7,832	7,857	8,250	8,813	8,062

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,010	1,010	1,330	1,033	1,015 B	1,015 B	924
851 B	891 B	946 B	747 B	794 B	794 B	843 B
0	1	2	3	3	1	3
2,237	2,084	2,027	2,448	3,546	3,806	2,487
8,274	7,981	8,161	7,824	7,984	8,416	8,134

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort
IAC = Intermediate appellate court

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.
NJ = Indicates that the court does not have jurisdiction.
NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data do not include **mandatory judge disciplinary** cases.

California—Supreme Court—Data do not include **judge disciplinary** cases.

Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1986 do not include **mandatory appeals of final judgments, mandatory disciplinary cases** and **mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Data for 1986-1989 do not include transfers from the Superior Court and Court of Common Pleas.

Utah—Court of Appeals—Data represent an 11-month reporting period.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Connecticut—Appellate Court—Data for 1984-1986 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted review.**

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions** and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

District of Columbia—Court of Appeals—Data for 1984 and 1985 include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed data for 1984-1988 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.
—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Hawaii—Supreme Court—Data include a few **discretionary petitions granted.**

Idaho—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

Illinois—Appellate Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Indiana—Court of Appeals—Data for 1984-1988 include all **discretionary petitions.**

Iowa—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the court.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Filed data include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted.** Disposed data include **all discretionary petitions.**

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Data for 1984 and 1985 include a few **discretionary appeals.**
—Courts of Appeal—Data for 1984 and 1985 include refiled **discretionary petitions that were granted review.**

Maryland—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted,** and refiled as appeals.

Massachusetts—Appeals Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions.**

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Data include **discretionary petitions**.

Missouri—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Montana—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary petitions.**

New Jersey—Appellate Division of Superior Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Data include all **discretionary petitions**.

North Carolina—Court of Appeals—**Mandatory** filed data include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals. Data include some cases where relief, not review, was granted.

Oklahoma—Court of Criminal Appeals—Data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted.**

Pennsylvania—Superior Court—Data for 1984-89 include all **discretionary petitions disposed that were granted.**

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Data include **discretionary advisory opinions.**

Tennessee—Court of Criminal Appeals—Data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Vermont—Supreme Court—Data for 1984 include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and decided.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data include some **discretionary petitions.**

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Data include a few **discretionary petitions,** but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary** cases and **certified questions from the federal courts.**

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court—Data include **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory disciplinary** and **advisory opinion** cases.

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	221	194	313	219	244	251	231
Court of Appeals	63	64	83	54	62	62	61
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	1,016 B	1,161 B	1,156 B	995 B	1,018 B	1,004 B	1044 B
Court of Appeals	50	40	49	51	60	52	83
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	3,991	4,346	4,808	4,558	4,351	4,214	4,622
Courts of Appeal	5,838	5,938	6,234	6,732	7,005	6,966	7,236
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	813	767	783	756	825	993	1,072
Appellate Court	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	1,056	1,175	1,097	1,270	1,316	1,111	1303
District Courts of Appeal	1,970	1,975	2,294	2,282	2,285	2,259	2457
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	941	975	980	1,006	998	1,101	1,079
Court of Appeals	623	641	647	733	717	809	794
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	32	41	43	57	45	42	43
Intermediate Ct. of App.	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	60	92	77	82	76	91	77
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	1,675	1,579	1,637	1,673	1,558	1,558	1582
Appellate Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	404	NA	565	690
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	81	112
IOWA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	352	327	371	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	526	461
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	986	813	847	693 A	686 A	748 A	753 A
Court of Appeals	79	96	94	90	92	89	59
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	2,126 A	2,213 A	2,455	2,673	2,657	2,776	2684
Courts of Appeal	1,842	2,538	3,016	3,541	3,877	4,189	3980

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
220	197	290	231	255	243	235
77	54	99	54	66	56	64
1,048 B	1,078 B	1,156 B	1,054 B	905 B	995 B	1006 B
59	45	48	45	63	53	56
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NA	NA	NA	4,004	4,052	4,442	4442
NA	NA	NA	6,776	7,334	7,070	7438
NA	NA	NA	1,036 B	1,001 B	1,215 B	1261 B
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
1,060	1,123	1,260	1,223	1,426	965	
1,669	1,683	1,751	1,887	1,839	1,893	
NA	NA	NA	1,524 B	1,615 B	1,885 B	1559 B
629	NA	NA	701	683	706	794
35	39	45	58	42	45	43
NJ	NJ	MJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
55	99	71	76	84	88	86
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
1,715	1,673	1,622	1,633	1,482	1,484	1,498
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
356	325	355	437	494	599	629
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76	116
479 A	497 A	520 A	317 A	291 A	303 A	311
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
793	1,044	898	706 A	678 A	640 A	718
73	87	107	71	77	89	76
NA	NA	2,230	2,660	2,404	2,633	2,870
NA	NA	2,935	3,460	3,802	4,138	3,945

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	761	713	607	655	682	598	626
Court of Special Appeals	308	192	240	294	220	230	204
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	1,246	1,336	1,473	336	563	592	444
Appeals Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	886	959	916
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	2,347	2,069	2,042	2,082	2,662	2,805	2507
Court of Appeals	NA	2,249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	846	981	989	1,033	1,056	857	809
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	1,142 A	1,053 A	1,382 A	1,382 A	1,354 A	1,482 A	1217 A
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NEW MEXICO							
Supreme Court	174	155	202	350	295	366	414
Court of Appeals	57	68	52	57	64	44	46
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	541	620	735	676	636	447	626
Court of Appeals	471	484	546	483	446	385	451
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	0	NA
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	NA	NA	NA
OHIO							
Supreme Court	1,704	1,644	1,733	1,846	1,770	1,686	1872
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
OREGON							
Supreme Court	870	903	990	1,086	857	709	791
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	24 A	32 A	26 A	43 A	61
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
UTAH							
Supreme Court	72	42	51	30	61	36	48
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	10	20	NA	NA
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	1,915	1,043	1,193	1,441	1,439	1,573	1,740
Court of Appeals	NC	1,103	1,113	1,201	1,291	1,523	1,570
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	881 C	906 C	897 C	1,151 C	947 A	821 A	891 A
Court of Appeals	263	320	371	346	372	318	351
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	718	761	836	869	915	896	842
Court of Appeals	245	228	241	221	228	191	NA

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
785 308	678 192	700 185	562 294	776 220	543 230	608 204
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 916
2,495 B NA	2,314 B NA	2,397 B NA	2,168 B NA	2,254 B NA	2,453 B NA	2,755 NA
812 A NJ	980 A NJ	953 A NJ	997 A NJ	1,064 NJ	871 NJ	823 NJ
1,075 A NA	1,025 A NA	1,378 A NA	1,411 A NA	1,398 A NA	1,472 A NA	1,200 A NA
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	344 NA	402 NA
465 423	665 462	748 560	637 483	727 446	397 385	601 431
NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	5 NA	0 NA	NA NA
1,293 NJ	1,428 NJ	1,532 NJ	1,598 NJ	1,621 NJ	1,372 NJ	1,413 NJ
NA NA	873 NA	1,013 NA	1,042 NA	871 NA	733 NA	707 NA
NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
1,919 NC	1,321 637	1,095 881	1,169 1,743	1,655 1,454	1,800 A 1,777	1,610 2,140
905 C 270	907 C 283	786 C 317	1,093 C 388	1,060 A 388	829 A 305	883 A 354
721 B 209	699 228	765 241	725 188	866 162	802 148	728 NA

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TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with no intermediate appellate court							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	5 A	3 A	3 A	4 A	4 A	6 A	1 A
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	85	81	76	96	61	49	45
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	2	4	3	2	0	43	64
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	36	25	31	6	NA
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	603 A	574 A	534 A	516 A	504	567	627
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	202	288	168	219	189	179	177
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	27 A	17 A	32 A	27 A	35 A	39 A	49
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	25	19	24	31	32	34	32
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	1,282	1,372	1,585	2,037	1,621	1,644	1,623
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	712	606	763	713	765	806	867
Court of Civil Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
Court of Criminal Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,280	4,411	4,499
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	388	295	340	293	295	443	446
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
Court of Criminal Appeals	284	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
5 A	2 A	3 A	4 A	3 A	5 A	5 A
NA	77	72	87	65	49	45
52	68	67	40	NA	NA	NA
2	4	3	2	0	32	59
NA	NA	19	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
550 A	602 A	415 A	451 A	543	532	567
218	219	199	241	178	169	197
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	20	21	26	32	35	36
1,124	1,26[illegible]	1,396	1,909	1,775	1,735	1,586
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA NJ NJ	588 NJ NJ	582 NJ NJ	654 NJ NJ	603 NJ NJ	1,104 NJ NJ	1,248 NJ NJ
3,477 NA NA	3,505 NA NA	3,549 NA NA	3,478 NA NA	3,392 NA NA	3,621 NA NA	3,808 NA NA
NA NJ 256	NA NJ 267	NA NJ 264	237 NJ 283	231 NJ 291	NA NJ 312	NA NJ 412

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TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	1,537	2,579	2,242	1,936	2,207	2,227	3,645
Commonwealth Court	82	81	NA	115	45	29	36
Superior Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	842	772	765	758	758	820	731
Court of Appeals	57	82	74	77	77	103	109
Court of Criminal Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	55
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	1,130	1,169	1,228	1,176	1,243	1,126	1,206
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,281	1,360	1,360	1,339	1,416	1,792	1,380
Courts of Appeal	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort
IAC = Intermediate appellate court

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.
NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.
NJ = Indicates that the court does not have jurisdiction.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

A: The following court's data are incomplete:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory decision** cases, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary original proceedings.**

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Data for 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions.**

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Data for 1984 and 1985 do not include some **discretionary petitions** that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** caseload.

Missouri—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1987 do not include **a few original proceedings**.

New Hampshire—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1987 include **discretionary judge disciplinary cases.**

New Jersey—Supreme Court—Data do not include **discretionary interlocutory decisions.**

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Data do not include **advisory opinions** that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Data for 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989 do not include **discretionary petitions that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn or settled.**

Washington—Supreme Court—Data do not include some **discretionary** cases that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data include **mandatory judge disciplinary cases.**

Colorado—Supreme Court—Disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990 represents some double counting because they include all **mandatory appeals** and **discretionary appeals that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Disposed data include a few **mandatory jurisdiction cases.**

Wisconsin—Supreme Court—Data for 1984 include all disposed **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

C: The following courts data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1987 include **mandatory certified questions from the federal courts,** but do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	1,087	1,087	1,057	772
57	82	74	77	77	97	74
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	36
1,034	1,187	1,166	1,261	1,168	1,096	1,166
1,081	1,046	1,100	1,672	1,437	2,107	1,352
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload In State Trial Courts, 1984-1990

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
General jurisdiction courts							
ALABAMA Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31,807
ALASKA Superior	NA	NA	2,658	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718
ARIZONA Superior	15,360	17,295	20,653	21,444	22,176	23,981	26,057
ARKANSAS Circuit	17,993 B	21,425 B	21,944 B	24,805 B	22,110 B	24,842 B	25,755 B
CALIFORNIA Superior	74,412 B	82,372 B	94,779 B	104,906 B	115,595 B	132,486 C	150,975 C
COLORADO District	14,783	15,804	16,087	16,223	17,391	19,284	20,212
CONNECTICUT Superior*	3,879	4,179	4,512	4,985	6,204	6,194	5,268
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	10,583	12,399	16,207	19,986	21,472	21,332	20,138
FLORIDA Circuit	173,420 B	NA	146,449 B	159,701 B	184,532 B	199,111 B	192,976 B
GEORGIA Superior	33,725	36,182	37,146	45,104	53,984	63,977	66,275
HAWAII Circuit*	2,969 C	2,878 C	2,842 C	2,766 C	2,90[illegible] C	3,115 C	3,025 C

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
IDAHO District	NA	4,006	NA	NA	4,747	5,260	5,725
ILLINOIS Circuit	46,107 B	45,925 B	47,075 B	46,342 B	58,289 B	69,114 B	74,541 C
INDIANA Superior and Circuit*	13,619 B	14,894 B	18,436 B	19,804 B	21,313 B	26,358 B	27,681 B
IOWA District	7,658 B	7,970 B	7,692 B	8,230 B	8,666 B	10,481 B	10,884 B
KANSAS District	11,397	10,470	11,106	11,500	12,188	12,631	12,197
KENTUCKY Circuit	13,961 B	13,439 B	13,380 B	13,500 B	12,518 B	14,411 B	14,881 B
LOUISIANA District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23,621
MAINE Superior	3,189	3,656	3,583	3,612	3,657	4,142	4,745
MARYLAND Circuit	31,757 C	NA	44,656 C	50,939 C	53,229 C	56,775 C	55,755 C
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	NA	NA	NA	6,790	6,075	5,583	6,271
MINNESOTA District	11,777	12,208	12,366	13,008	13,637	13,607	14,747

(continued on next page)

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MISSOURI Circuit	30,305 B	30,494 B	32,796 B	34,971 B	36,965 B	39,952 B	40,968 B
MONTANA District	2,378 C	2,574 C	2,591 C	2,443 C	2,726 C	2,710 C	2,966 C
NEBRASKA District	2,878 B	NA	NA	3,445 B	4,024 B	4,823 B	5,105 B
NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	3,813	4,198	4,857	5,527	6,079	6,599	6,678
NEW JERSEY Superior	37,135	37,784	38,443	41,198	43,837	53,215	57,223
NEW YORK Supreme and County*	49,191 B	51,034 B	56,356 B	62,940 B	67,177 B	79,025 B	79,322 B
NORTH CAROLINA Superior *	42,160	40,915	44,980	51,210	55,284	62,752	69,810
NORTH DAKOTA District	1,284 B	1,312 B	1,390 B	1,487 B	1,497 B	1,444 B	1,637 B
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	37,073	36,249	38,374	39,376	43,613	51,959	55,949
OKLAHOMA District	24,178 B	24,673 B	25,782 B	26,438 B	25,997 B	26,482 B	27,541 B
OREGON Circuit	19,913	20,682	22,533	24,591	26,859	27,248	28,523

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
PENNSYLVANIA							
Court of Common Pleas	86,083 B	NA	98,880 B	106,972 B	113,605 B	128,478 B	139,699 B
PUERTO RICO							
Superior	14,511 B	15,516 B	20,073 B	20,314 B	21,532 B	21,548 B	23,328 B
RHODE ISLAND							
Superior	4,232	4,780	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740	6,011
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Circuit	2,606	3,088	3,182	3,275	3,257	3,388	4,072
TENNESSEE							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	33,994 B	NA	38,656 B	41,533 B	NA	50,412 B	55,622 B
TEXAS							
District	87,249	93,968	111,331	119,395	122,903	139,611	147,230
UTAH							
District	3,937 B	NA	5,055 B	4,320 B	4,182 B	4,215 B	4,608 B
VERMONT							
District	1,837	1,897	2,177	2,111	2,115	1,993	2,202
Superior	8	6	1	85	112	138	53
VIRGINIA							
Circuit	42,642	43,096	45,646	49,481	53,445	63,304	64,053
WASHINGTON							
Superior	15,432	17,885	19,693	21,071	25,476	28,121	26,914
WEST VIRGINIA							
Circuit	4,724 B	4,707 B	4,546 B	4,885 B	4,291 B	4,121 B	4,071 B

(continued on next page)

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
WISCONSIN							
Circuit	13,607	14,549	14,470	13,802	14,484	17,625	18,738
WYOMING							
District	1,462	1,468	1,466	1,353	1,480	1,591	1,503
			Limited jurisdiction courts				
CALIFORNIA							
Justice	10,165 B	10,700 B	10,571 B	11,640 B	12,076 B	11,628 C	11,025 C
Municipal	133,315 B	145,133 B	163,959 B	185,995 B	197,176 B	210,615 B	228,340 C
DELAWARE							
Court of Common Pleas	656	520	726	819	804	787	736
HAWAII							
District	381	230	256	235	229	409	508
INDIANA							
County	7,442 B	8,623 B	8,437 B	8,271 B	7,602 B	7,261 B	7,443 B
Municipal Court of Marion County	NA	NA	8,789 B	8,517 B	6,451 B	7,045 B	5,803 B
MAINE							
District	NA	NA	NA	4,263 B	4,936 B	5,255 B	5,520 B
MICHIGAN							
District	NA	NA	18,568	20,445	20,036	22,029	23,217
Municipal	NA	NA	307	178	191	264	186
OHIO							
County	856	1,199	1,048	1,139	1,112	1,278	1,349
Municipal	17,354	16,561	18,371	20,222	23,643	31,475	33,552

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
PENNSYLVANIA							
District Justice	147,535 B	NA	NA	52,331 B	55,352 B	64,095 B	67,348 B
VIRGINIA							
District	NA	42,412	49,685	51,358	52,739	57,786	60,909

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1984-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988, 1989, and 1990.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
Michigan—District Court—Felony data do not include cases from several courts.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Arkansas—Circuit Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
California—Superior Court—Felony data for 1984-1988 include **DWI/DUI** cases.
—Justice Court—Felony data for 1984-1988 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.
—Municipal Court—Felony data for 1984-1989 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.
Florida—Circuit Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor**, **DWI/DUI**, and **miscellaneous criminal** cases.
Illinois—Circuit Court—Felony data include **preliminary hearings** for courts "downstate."
Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
—County Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
—Municipal Court of Marion County—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
Iowa—District Court—Felony data include third-offense **DWI/DUI** cases.
Kentucky—Circuit Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** cases, **sentence review only** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
Maine—District Court—Felony data include **preliminary hearings**.
Missouri—Circuit Court—Felony data include some **DWI/DUI** cases.
Nebraska—District Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** and **DWI/DUI** cases.
New York—Supreme and County Courts—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
North Dakota—District Court—Felony data include **sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings.**
Oklahoma—District Court—Felony data include some **miscellaneous criminal** cases.
Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Felony data include **misdemeanor**, **DWI/DUI**, and some **criminal appeals** cases.
—District Justice Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Felony data include **appeals**.
Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** and some **criminal appeals** cases.
Utah—District Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** and **criminal appeals** cases, and some **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings.**
West Virginia—Circuit Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
California—Superior Court—Felony data for 1989 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from several courts. Data for 1990 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from one court.
—Justice Court—Felony data for 1989 and 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from several courts for 1989, and one court for 1990.
—Municipal Court—Felony data for 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from one court.
Hawaii—Circuit Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include reopened prior cases.
Illinois—Circuit Court—Felony data for 1990 include **preliminary hearings** for courts downstate, but do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.
Maryland—Circuit Court—Felony data include some **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include some cases.
Montana—District Court—Felony data include some **trial court civil appeals**, but do not include some cases reported with unclassified criminal data.

* Additional information:
Connecticut—Superior Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1984, 1985, and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports.* Felony filings have been adjusted to include only triable felonies so as to be comparable to 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990 data.
Hawaii—Circuit Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1984, 1985, and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports.* Misdemeanor cases have been included to allow comparability with 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990 data.
Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—County Court— 1985-1990 data are not comparable with previous years' figures due to changes in classification of County Court function.
New York—Supreme and County Courts—These courts experienced a significant increase in the number of filings due to the change to an individual calendaring system in 1986.

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload In State Trial Courts, 1984-1990

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
				General jurisdiction courts			
ALASKA							
Superior	NA	2,096	2,344	1,664	937	851	826
ARIZONA							
Superior	9,173	10,748	11,888	12,260	20,490	12,559	15,418
ARKANSAS							
Circuit	NA	5,382	5,541	5,606	5,132	5,000	5,045
CALIFORNIA							
Superior	97,068	112,049	130,206	137,455	132,378	131,900 A	121,960 A
COLORADO							
District	4,199	4,537	6,145	3,666	4,506	5,490	5,886
CONNECTICUT							
Superior	NA	12,742	13,754	15,385	15,741	16,955	16,477
FLORIDA							
Circuit*	26,815 A	29,864 A	34,027 A	33,622 A	34,325 A	36,606 A	38,652 A
HAWAII							
Circuit	1,611 A	1,676 A	1,749 A	1,785 A	1,736 A	1,793 A	2,065 A
IDAHO							
District	1,729 A	2,010 A	2,118 A	1,757 A	1,453 A	1,478 A	1,417 A
INDIANA							
Superior and Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,697	6,719
KANSAS							
District	4,033	4,061	4,273	4,380	4,595	4,513	4,010

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MAINE Superior	2,083	2,072	2,044	1,786	1,776	1,950	1,878
MARYLAND Circuit	10,826 A	10,120 A	12,373 A	12,938 A	14,170 A	14,274 A	14,908 A
MICHIGAN Circuit	NA	22,811	32,612	29,756	30,966	32,663	38,784
MINNESOTA District	NA	NA	10,356	10,739	10,125	9,658	7,135
MISSOURI Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21,680
MONTANA District	1,640	1,870	1,836	1,792	1,541	1,613	1,651
NEVADA District	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,329	4,799	5,295
NEW JERSEY Superior	41,722 A	42,141 A	45,547 A	46,671 A	56,186 A	58,193 A	59,428 A
NEW MEXICO Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	NA	NA	NA	1,497	1,401	1,835	1,357
NEW YORK Supreme and County	37,847	35,549	32,011	34,249	30,709	29,922	31,241

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	
NORTH CAROLINA Superior	NA		8,062		8,897		8,981		7,639		7,879		8,175	
NORTH DAKOTA District	550		512		561		551		552		602		744	
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	22,149		25,518		28,225		29,375		28,614		29,039		34,488	
PUERTO RICO Superior	3,968	B	4,388	B	4,558	B	4,811	B	4,077	B	5,579	B	6,095	B
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	11,775		12,565		13,167		13,597		NA		13,501		13,453	
TEXAS District	34,224		37,596		38,238		40,764		36,597		36,710		39,648	
UTAH District	1,433	B	1,245	B	2,527	B	1,335	B	1,404	B	1,233	B	1,631	B
WASHINGTON Superior	8,997		9,747		19,515		8,007		8,746		10,146		10,147	
WISCONSIN Circuit	NA		NA		NA		9,545		9,534		9,152		9,669	

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
Limited jurisdiction courts							
ALASKA							
District	NA	860 A	4,069 A	1,071 A	445 A	474 A	341 A
FLORIDA							
County	NA	NA	42,229	52,491	53,992	57,375	60,796
HAWAII							
District	693	652	738	937	781	870	1,062
INDIANA							
City and Town	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,626	3,672
County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	44
Municipal Court of Marion County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51
NORTH DAKOTA							
County	NA	NA	NA	22	28	18	12
OHIO							
County	519	464	463	406	410	528	430
Municipal	13,503	12,992	13,999	15,505	15,373	15,078	14,674
PUERTO RICO							
District	1,550 B	1,579 B	1,779 B	1,729 B	1,860 B	2,010 B	1,932 B
TEXAS							
County-Level	7,143	8,242	9,833	11,314	12,188	11,437	12,355

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-90. (continued)

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1984-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988, 1989, and 1990.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alaska—District Court—Data do not include filings in the low volume District Courts, which are reported with unclassified civil cases.

California—Superior Court—Tort data for 1989 do not include partial data from several courts. Data for 1990 do not include partial data from one court.

Florida—Circuit Court—Data do not include professional tort cases reported with other civil cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Data do not include a small number of District Court transfers reported with other civil cases.

Idaho—District Court—Data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

New Jersey—Superior Court—Data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases. The unit of count for civil cases changed for 1989 and 1990, but tort data were adjusted using the unit of count from previous years so data are comparable.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Tort data include **appeals**.
—District Court—Tort data include **appeals**.

Utah—District Court—Tort data include dem novo **appeals** from the Justice of the Peace Courts.

* Additional court information:

Colorado—District and Denver Superior Courts—The Denver Superior Court was abolished 11/14/86 and the caseload absorbed by the District Court.

Florida—Circuit Court—Figures for tort filings do not match those reported in the 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports*. Professional tort cases have been removed so as to be comparable to 1984 and 1985 data.

PART 4

1990 STATE COURT STRUCTURE CHARTS

• • • • • • • • • •

An Explanatory Note

The court structure charts summarize in a one-page diagram the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships; and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of the court systems, using a comparable set of terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project for reporting caseload statistics.

The first chart is a prototype. It represents a state court organization in which there is one of each of the four court system levels recognized by the Court Statistics Project: courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts, general jurisdiction trial courts, and limited jurisdiction trial courts. Routes of appeal from one court to another are indicated by lines, with an arrow showing which court receives the appeal or petition.

The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized justices, judges, and magistrates (or other judicial officers). Each court system's subject matter jurisdiction is indicated using the Court Statistics Project case types. Information is also provided on the use of districts, circuits, or divisions in organizing the courts within the system and the number of courts, where this coincides with a basic government unit.

The case types, which define a court system's subject matter jurisdiction, require the most explanation. This is done separately for appellate and trial court systems.

Appellate Courts

The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any, that are maintained; whether court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; and the Court Statistics Project case types that are heard by the court. The case types are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The case types themselves are defined in other Court Statistics Project publications, especially *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* and *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989.*

An appellate court can have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project case type. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project case types are defined broadly in order to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project case types for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases, but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The list of case types would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication of a case type under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that case type are mandatory, while appeals from another lower court are discretionary. Also, statutory provisions or court rules in some states automatically convert a mandatory appeal into a discretionary petition—for example, when an appeal is not filed within a specified time limit. A more comprehensive description of each appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction can be found in the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting.*

Trial Courts

The rectangle representing each trial court also lists the applicable Court Statistics Project case types. These include civil, criminal, traffic/other violation, and juvenile. Where a case type is simply listed, it means that the court system shares jurisdiction over it with other courts. The presence of exclusive jurisdiction is always explicitly stated. The absence of a case type from a list means that the court does not have that subject matter jurisdiction. The dollar amount jurisdiction is shown where there is an upper or a lower limit to the cases that can be filed in a court. A dollar limit is not listed if a court does not have a minimum or maximum dollar jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "triable felony," where the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "limited felony," which applies to those limited jurisdiction courts that can conduct preliminary hearings that bind a defendant over for trial in a higher court.

Trial courts can have what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction. The presence of such jurisdiction over the decisions of other courts is noted in the list of case types as either "civil appeals," "criminal appeals," or "administrative agency appeals." A trial court that hears appeals directly from an administrative agency has an "A" in the upper right corner of the rectangle.

For each trial court, the chart states the authorized number of judges and whether the court can empanel a jury. The rectangle representing the court also indicates the number of districts, divisions, or circuits into which the court system is divided. These subdivisions are stated using the court system's own terminology. The descriptions, therefore, are not standardized across states or court systems.

Trial courts are differentiated into those that are totally funded from local sources and those that receive some form of state funds. Locally funded court systems are drawn with broken lines. A solid line indicates some or all of the funding is derived from state funds.

Symbols and Abbreviations

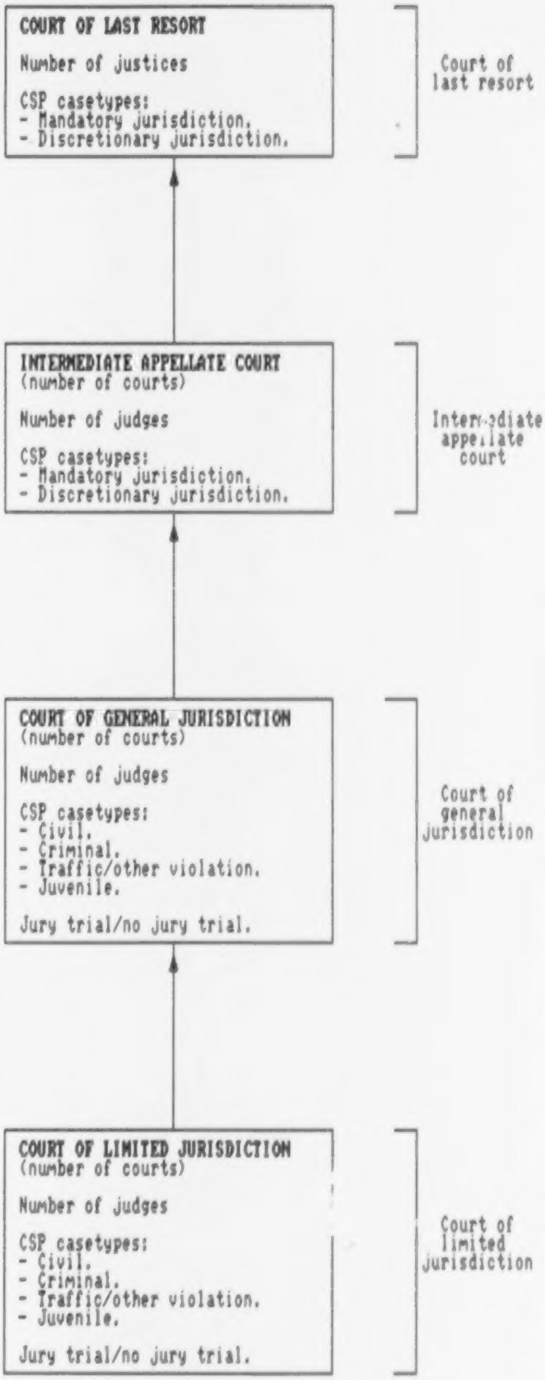
An "A" in the upper right corner of a rectangle, representing either an appellate or a trial court, indicates that the court receives appeals directly from the decisions of an administrative agency. Where "administrative agency appeals" is listed as a case type, it indicates that the court hears appeals from decisions of another court on an administrative agency's actions. It is possible for a court to have both an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a case type. Such a court hears appeals directly from an administrative agency ("A") and has appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of a lower court that has already reviewed the decision of the administrative agency.

The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The abbreviation "SC" stands for "small claims." The dollar amount jurisdiction for civil cases is indicated in parentheses with a dollar sign. Where the small claims dollar amount jurisdiction is different, it is noted.

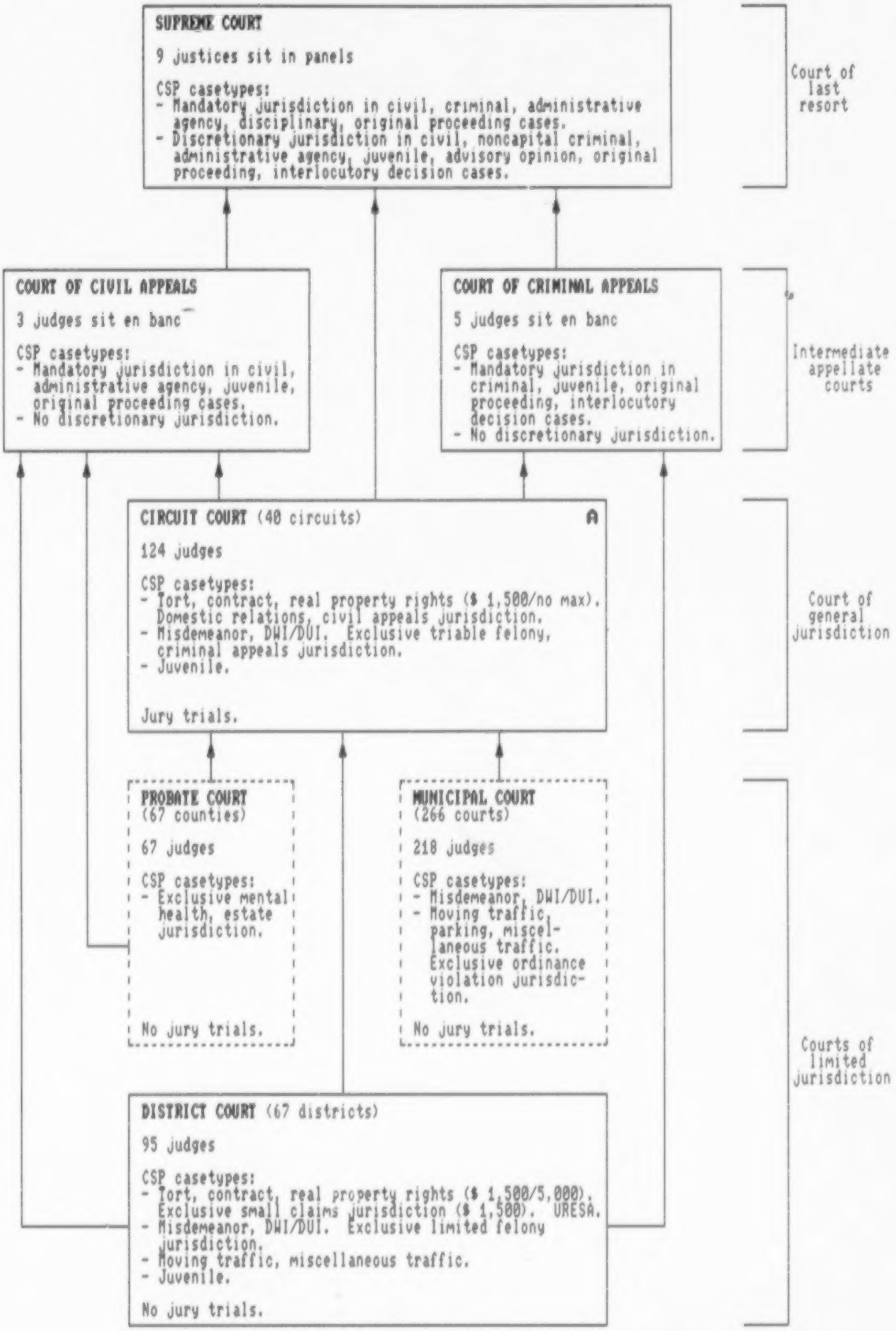
Conclusion

The court structure charts are convenient summaries. They do not substitute for the detailed descriptive material contained in *State Court Organization, 1987*, another Court Statistics Project publication. Moreover, they are based on the Court Statistics Project's terminology and categories. This means that a state may have established courts that are not included in these charts. Some states have courts of special jurisdiction to receive complaints on matters that are more typically directed to administrative boards and agencies. Since these courts receive cases that do not fall within the Court Statistics Project case types, they are not included in the charts. The existence of such courts, however, is recognized in a footnote to the state's court structure chart.

STATE COURT STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE, 1990


COURT OF LAST RESORT
Number of justices
CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction.
Court of last resort
INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction.
Intermediate appellate court
COURT OF GENERAL JURISDICTION
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP casetypes:
- Civil.
- Criminal.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.
Jury trial/no jury trial.
Court of general jurisdiction
COURT OF LIMITED JURISDICTION
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP casetypes:
- Civil.
- Criminal.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.
Jury trial/no jury trial.
Court of limited jurisdiction

ALABAMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

9 justices sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

3 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

5 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (40 circuits) A

124 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 1,500/no max). Domestic relations, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
(67 counties)

67 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive mental health, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(266 courts)

218 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (67 districts)

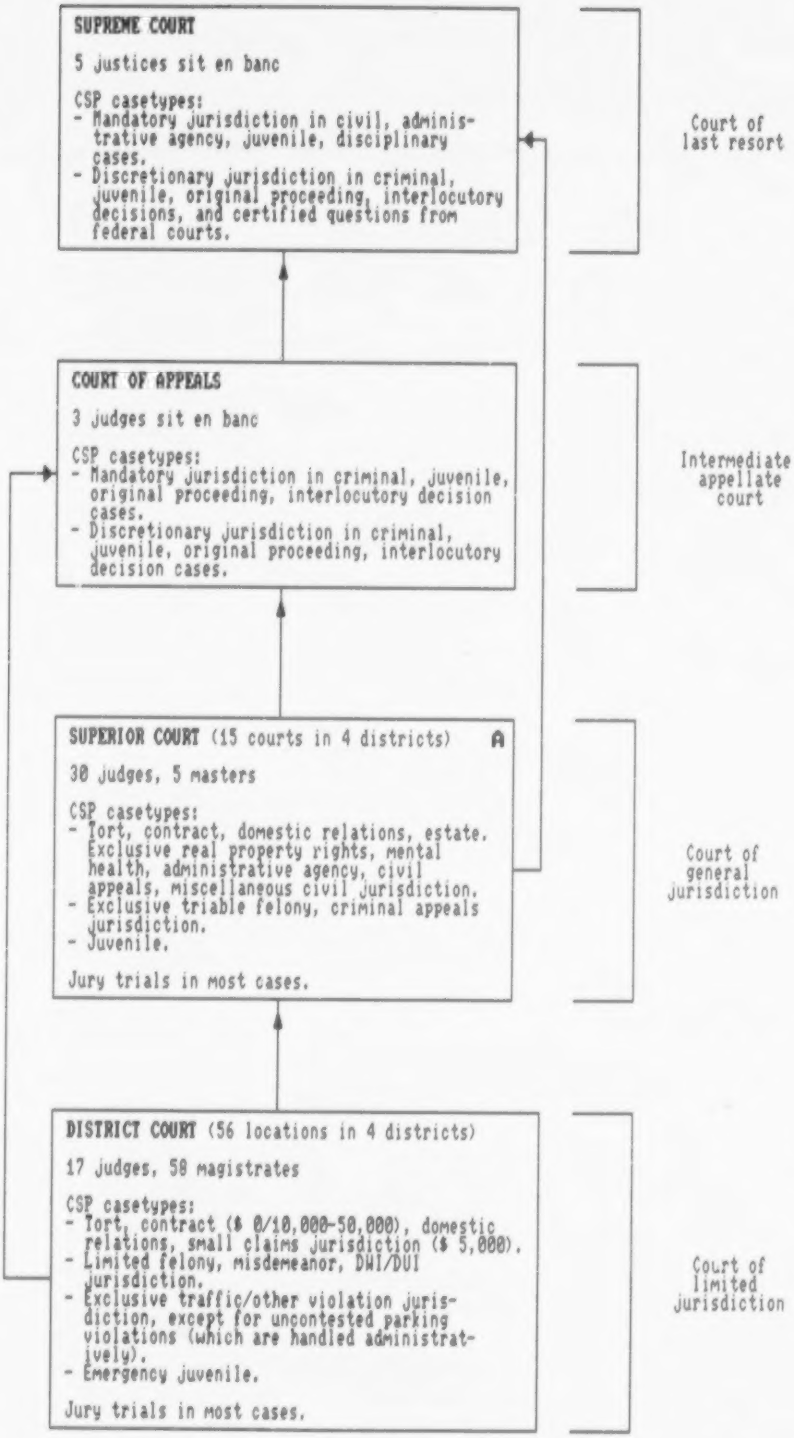
95 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 1,500/5,000). Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 1,500). URESA.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate courts
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

ALASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decisions, and certified questions from federal courts.

COURT OF APPEALS

3 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (15 courts in 4 districts) **A**

30 judges, 5 masters

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, domestic relations, estate. Exclusive real property rights, mental health, administrative agency, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials in most cases.

DISTRICT COURT (56 locations in 4 districts)

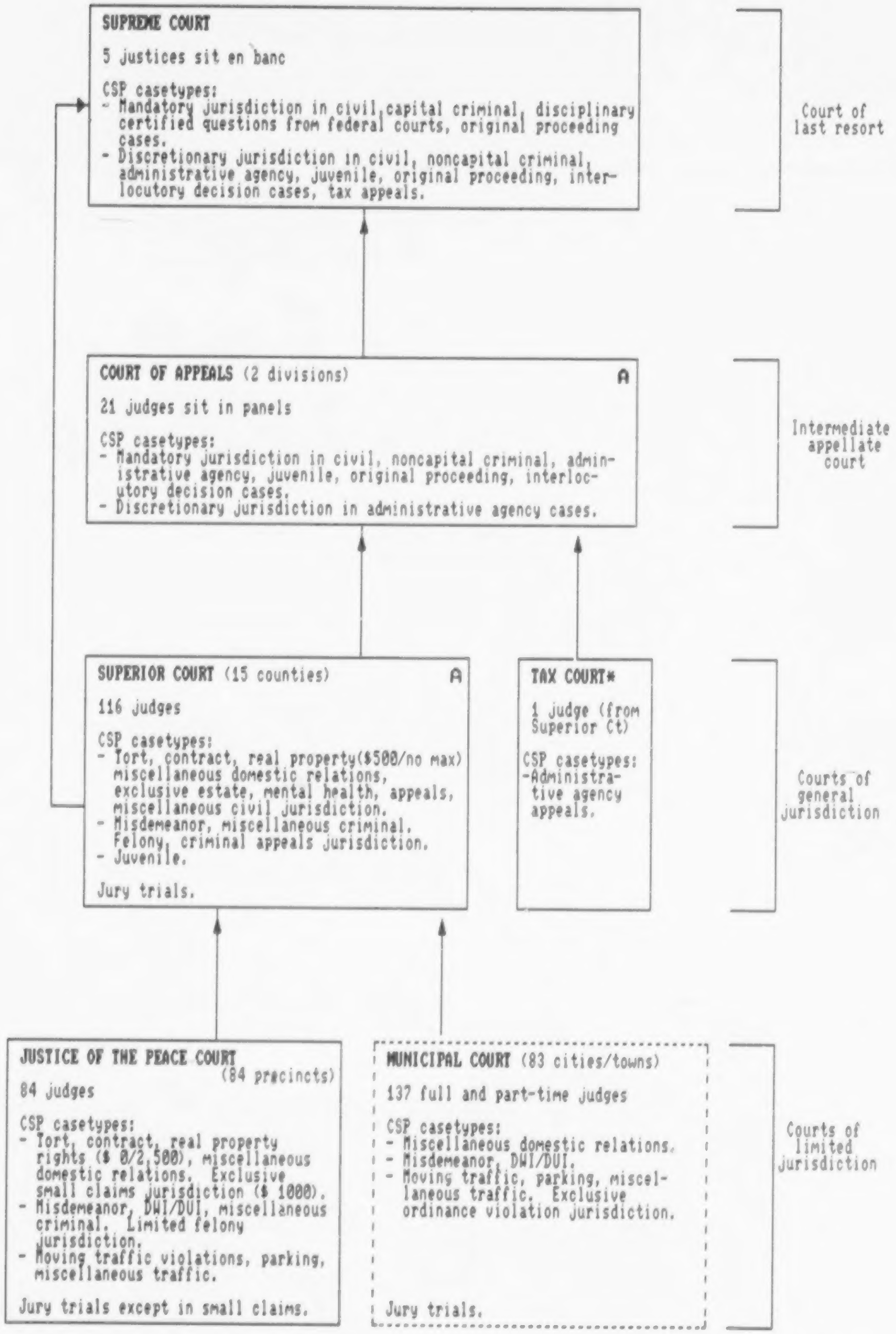
17 judges, 58 magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/10,000-50,000), domestic relations, small claims jurisdiction ($ 5,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for uncontested parking violations (which are handled administratively).
- Emergency juvenile.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Court of limited jurisdiction

ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, disciplinary certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases, tax appeals.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS (2 divisions) A

21 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency cases.

Intermediate appellate court

SUPERIOR COURT (15 counties) A

116 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property($500/no max) miscellaneous domestic relations, exclusive estate, mental health, appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal. Felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

TAX COURT*

1 judge (from Superior Ct)

CSP casetypes:
- Administrative agency appeals.

Courts of general jurisdiction

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT (84 precincts)

84 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/2,500), miscellaneous domestic relations. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 1000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic violations, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (83 cities/towns)

137 full and part-time judges

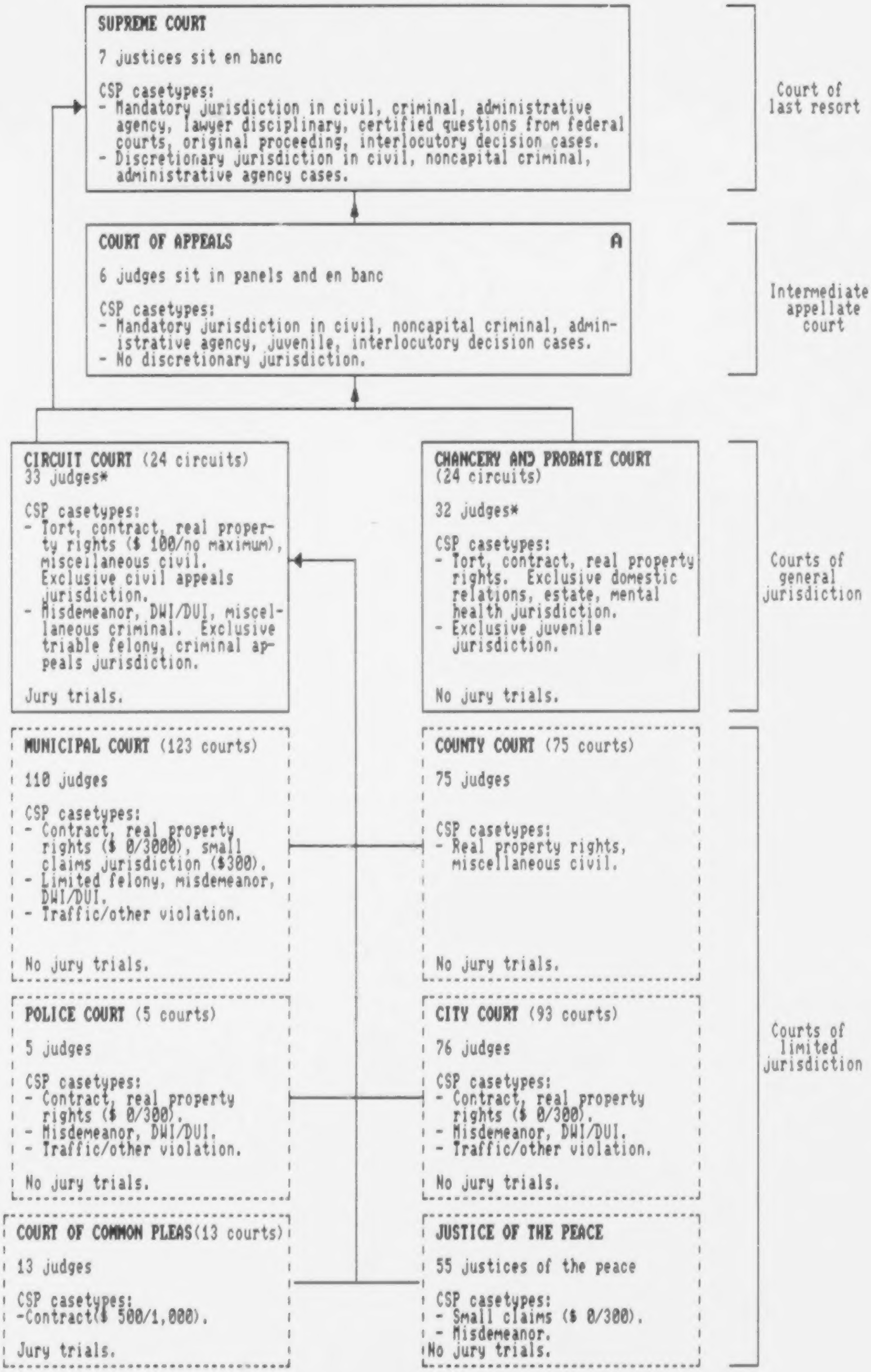
CSP casetypes:
- Miscellaneous domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

* The Tax Court was created in September, 1988.

ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

6 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT (24 circuits)
33 judges*

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 100/no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

CHANCERY AND PROBATE COURT
(24 circuits)

32 judges*

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Courts of general jurisdiction

MUNICIPAL COURT (123 courts)

110 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Contract, real property rights ($ 0/3000), small claims jurisdiction ($300).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (75 courts)

75 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights, miscellaneous civil.

No jury trials.

POLICE COURT (5 courts)

5 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Contract, real property rights ($ 0/300).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

CITY COURT (93 courts)

76 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Contract, real property rights ($ 0/300).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (13 courts)

13 judges

CSP casetypes:
-Contract($ 500/1,000).

Jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

55 justices of the peace

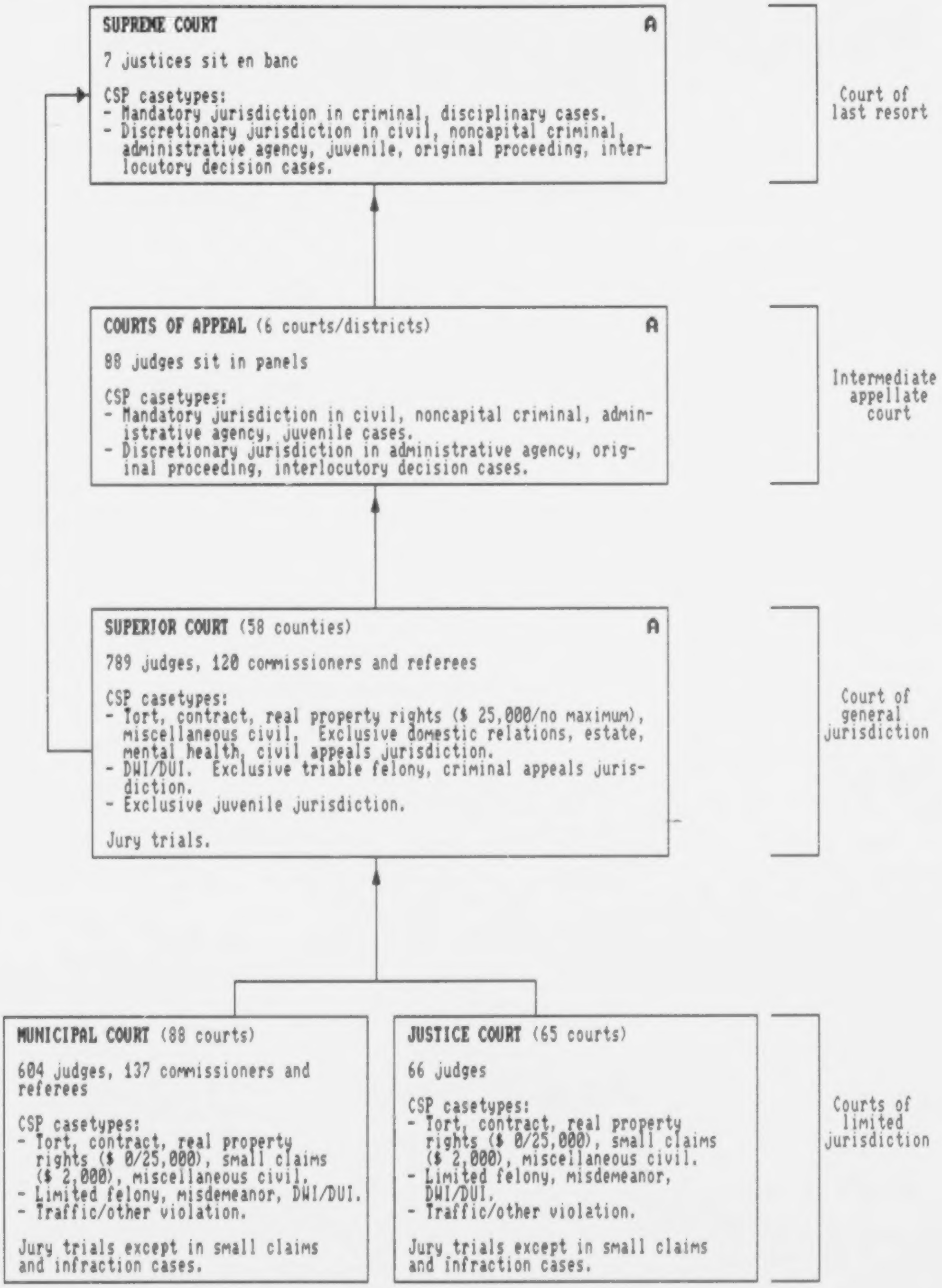
CSP casetypes:
- Small claims ($ 0/300).
- Misdemeanor.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

* Thirty-three additional judges serve both Circuit and Chancery Courts, 20 of which are primarily responsible for the juvenile division of Chancery Court.

CALIFORNIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURTS OF APPEAL (6 courts/districts) A

88 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

SUPERIOR COURT (58 counties) A

789 judges, 120 commissioners and referees

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 25,000/no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

MUNICIPAL COURT (88 courts)

604 judges, 137 commissioners and referees

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/25,000), small claims ($ 2,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except in small claims and infraction cases.

JUSTICE COURT (65 courts)

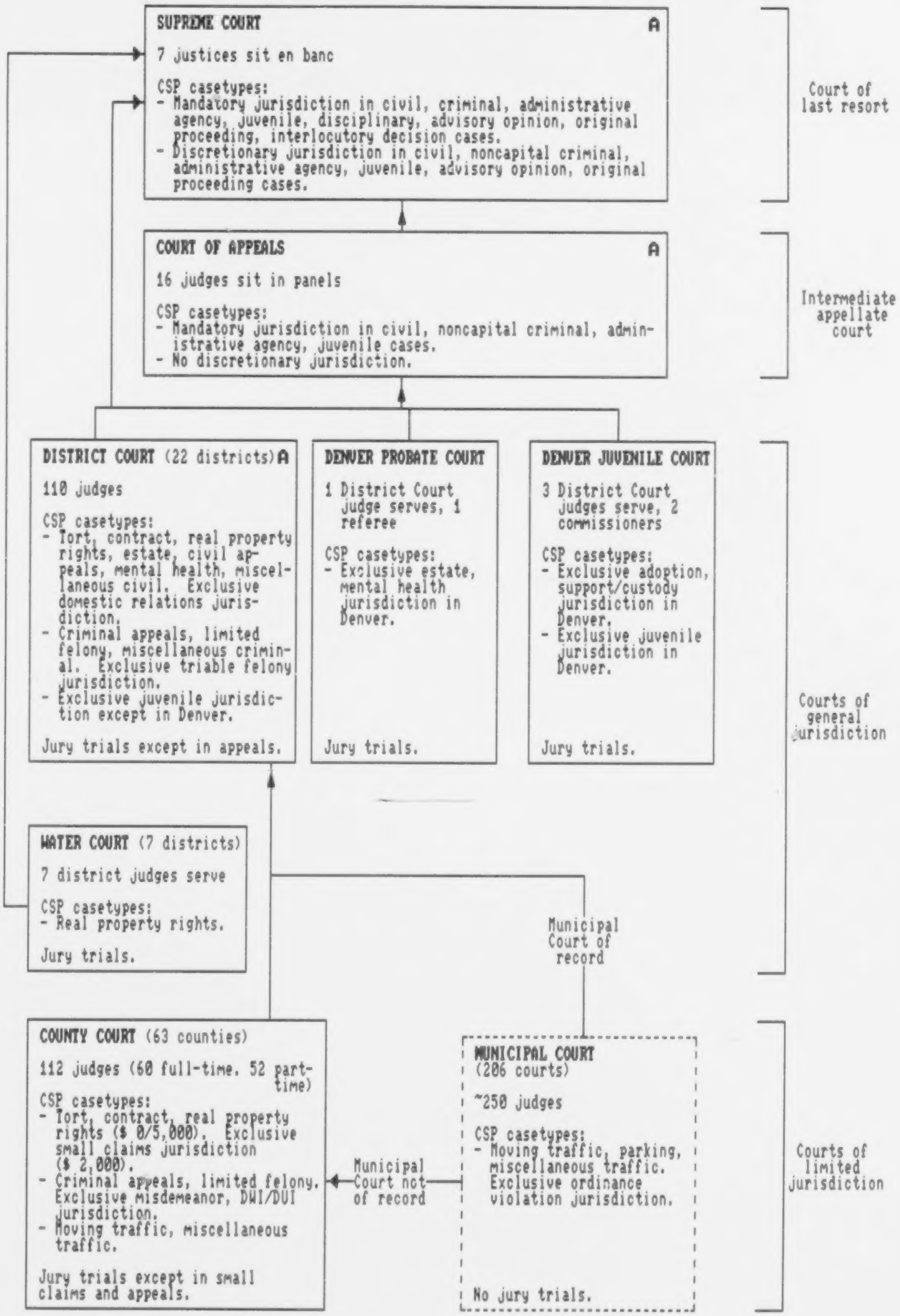
66 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/25,000), small claims ($ 2,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except in small claims and infraction cases.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

COLORADO COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS A

16 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURT (22 districts) A

110 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, estate, civil appeals, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
- Criminal appeals, limited felony, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction except in Denver.

Jury trials except in appeals.

DENVER PROBATE COURT

1 District Court judge serves, 1 referee

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive estate, mental health jurisdiction in Denver.

Jury trials.

DENVER JUVENILE COURT

3 District Court judges serve, 2 commissioners

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive adoption, support/custody jurisdiction in Denver.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction in Denver.

Jury trials.

WATER COURT (7 districts)

7 district judges serve

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights.

Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (63 counties)

112 judges (60 full-time. 52 part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/5,000). Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Criminal appeals, limited felony. Exclusive misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials except in small claims and appeals.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(206 courts)

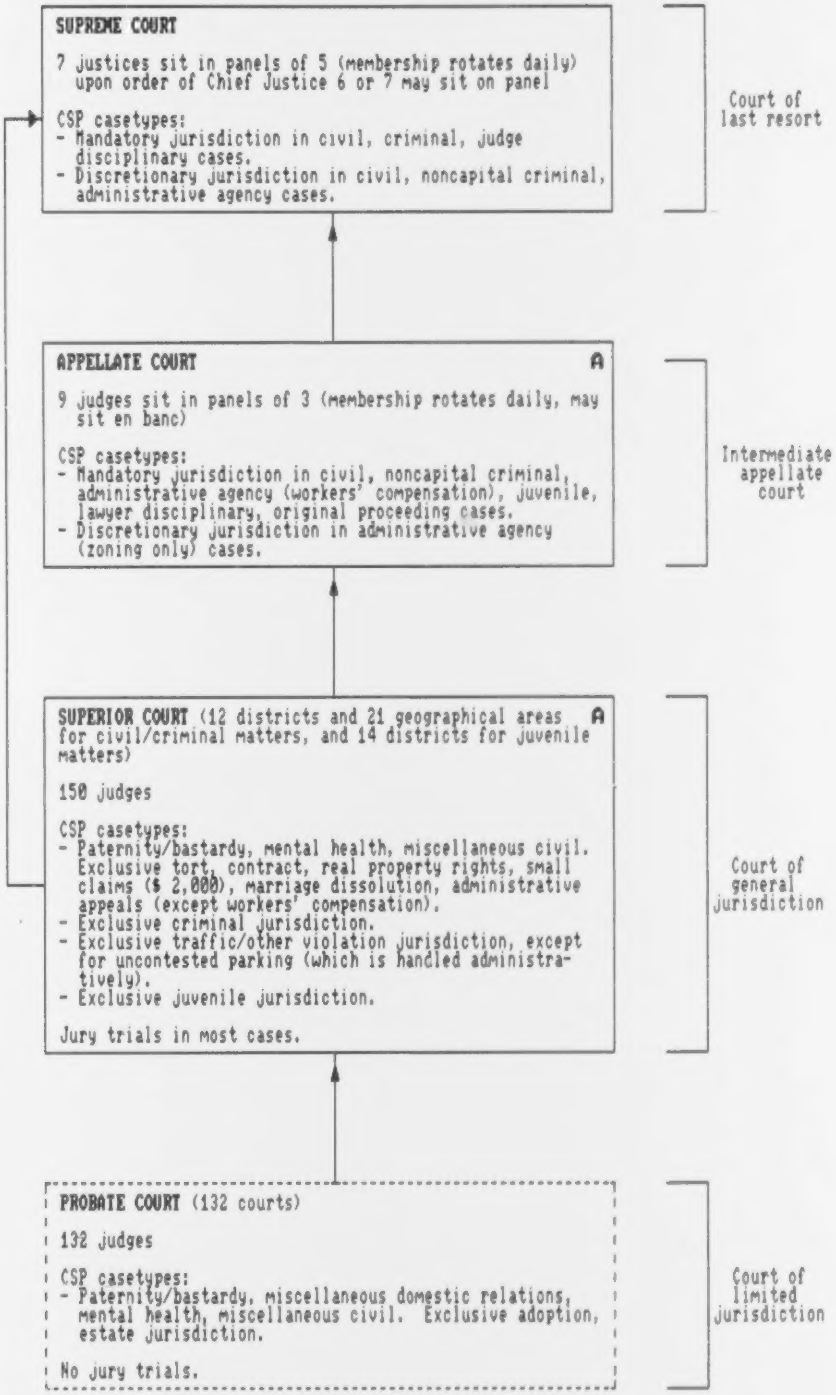
~250 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Courts of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction
Municipal Court of record
Municipal Court not of record

CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit in panels of 5 (membership rotates daily) upon order of Chief Justice 6 or 7 may sit on panel

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, judge disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency cases.

Court of last resort

APPELLATE COURT A

9 judges sit in panels of 3 (membership rotates daily, may sit en banc)

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency (workers' compensation), juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency (zoning only) cases.

Intermediate appellate court

SUPERIOR COURT (12 districts and 21 geographical areas for civil/criminal matters, and 14 districts for juvenile matters) A

150 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Paternity/bastardy, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($ 2,000), marriage dissolution, administrative appeals (except workers' compensation).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for uncontested parking (which is handled administratively).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

PROBATE COURT (132 courts)

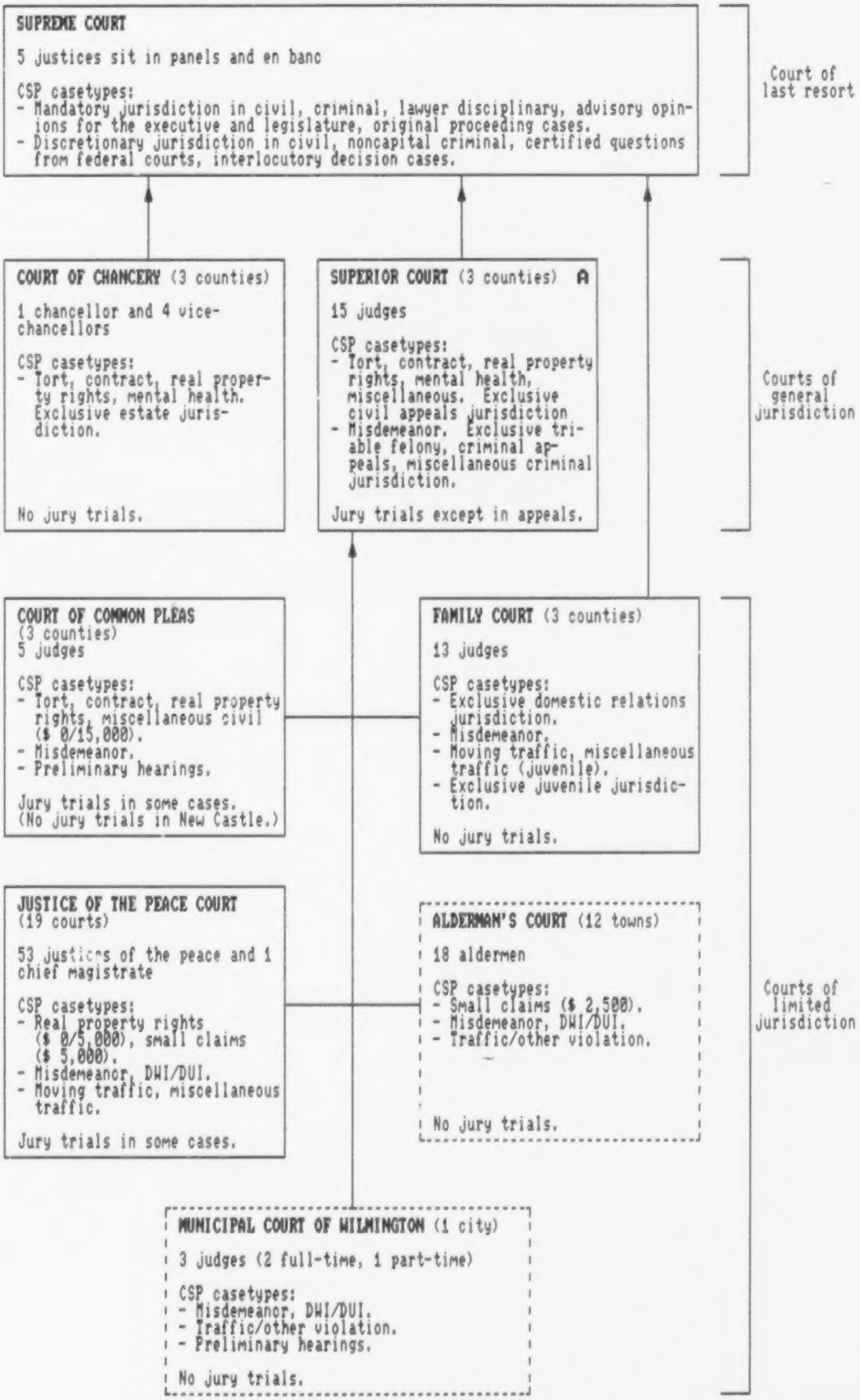
132 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



Court of last resort
Courts of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, lawyer disciplinary, advisory opinions for the executive and legislature, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CHANCERY (3 counties)

1 chancellor and 4 vice-chancellors

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, mental health. Exclusive estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

SUPERIOR COURT (3 counties) A

15 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, mental health, miscellaneous. Exclusive civil appeals jurisdiction
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in appeals.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
(3 counties)
5 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($ 0/15,000).
- Misdemeanor.
- Preliminary hearings.

Jury trials in some cases.
(No jury trials in New Castle.)

FAMILY COURT (3 counties)

13 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic (juvenile).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
(19 courts)

53 justices of the peace and 1 chief magistrate

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights ($ 0/5,000), small claims ($ 5,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials in some cases.

ALDERMAN'S COURT (12 towns)

18 aldermen

CSP casetypes:
- Small claims ($ 2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

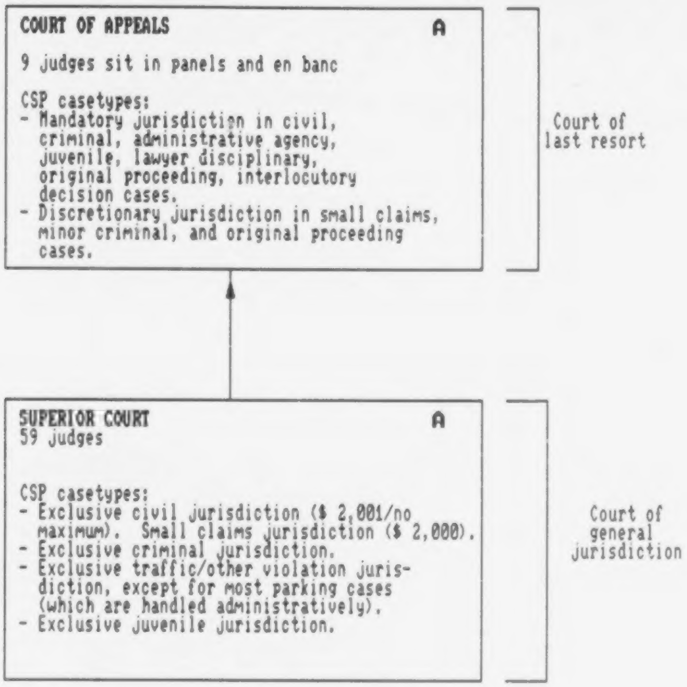
MUNICIPAL COURT OF WILMINGTON (1 city)

3 judges (2 full-time, 1 part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



COURT OF APPEALS A

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in small claims, minor criminal, and original proceeding cases.

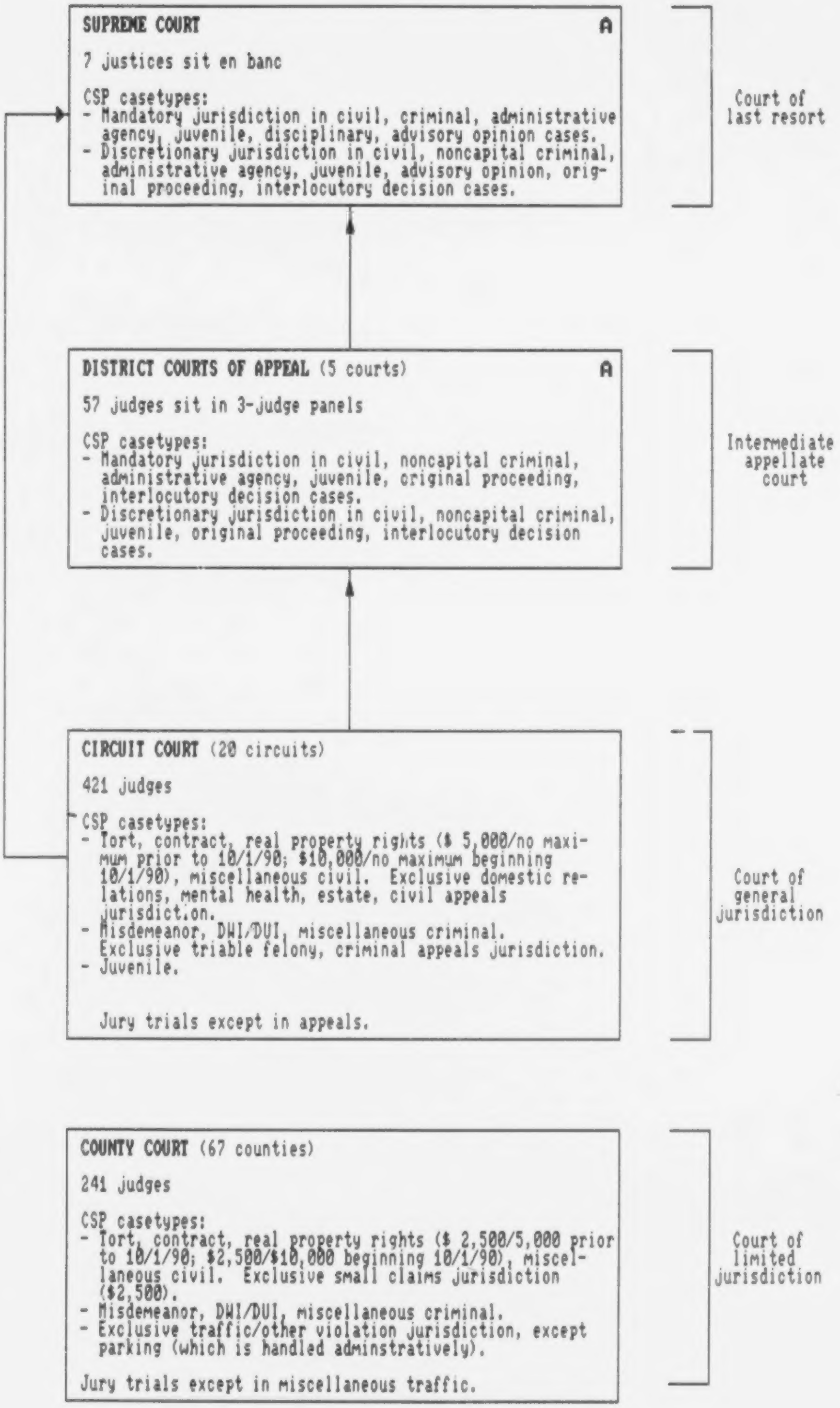
Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT A
59 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction ($ 2,001/no maximum). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for most parking cases (which are handled administratively).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Court of general jurisdiction

FLORIDA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL (5 courts) A

57 judges sit in 3-judge panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT (20 circuits)

421 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 5,000/no maximum prior to 10/1/90; $10,000/no maximum beginning 10/1/90), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials except in appeals.

Court of general jurisdiction

COUNTY COURT (67 counties)

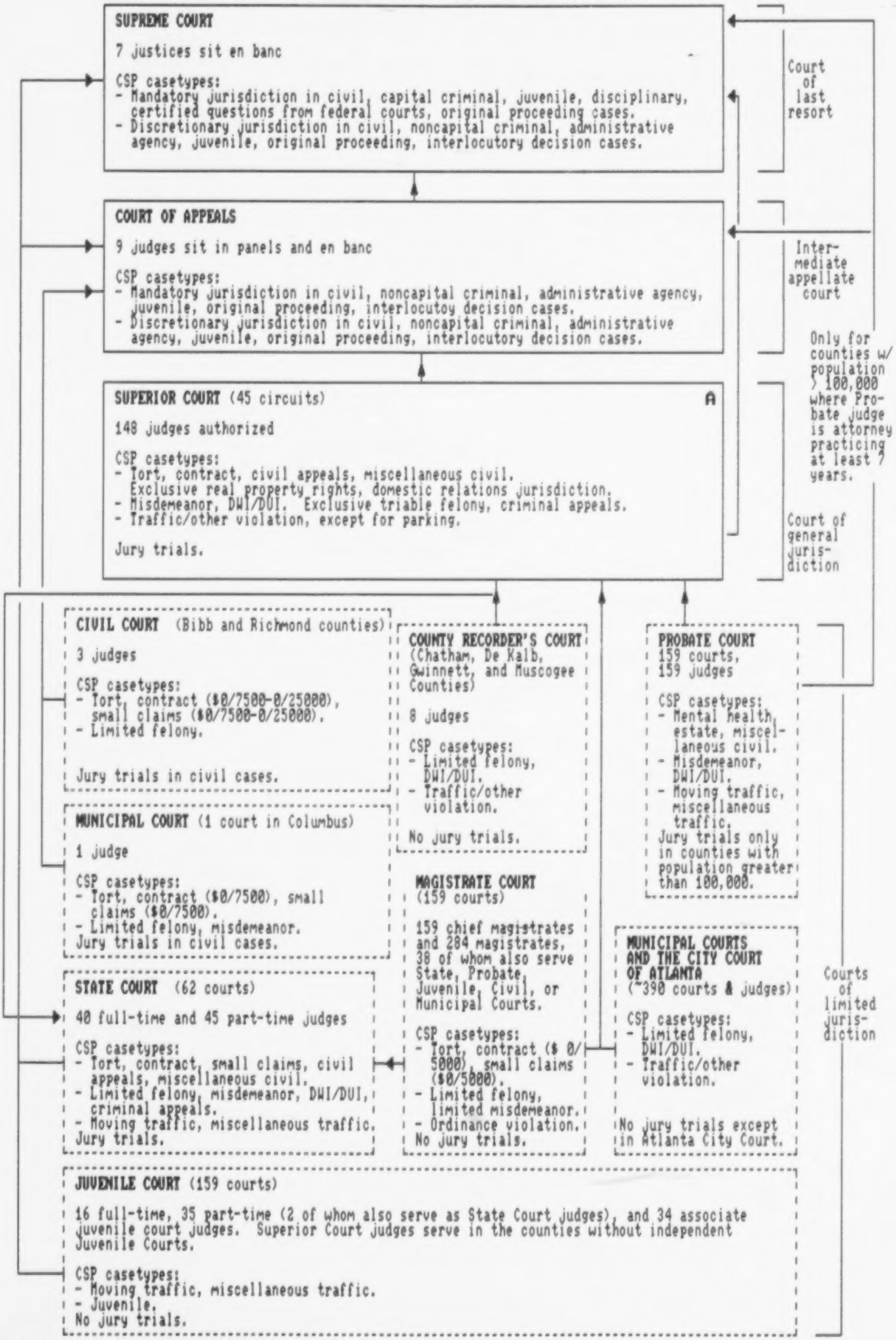
241 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 2,500/5,000 prior to 10/1/90; $2,500/$10,000 beginning 10/1/90), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except parking (which is handled adminstratively).

Jury trials except in miscellaneous traffic.

Court of limited jurisdiction

GEORGIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutoy decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

Only for counties w/ population > 100,000 where Probate judge is attorney practicing at least 7 years.

SUPERIOR COURT (45 circuits) A

148 judges authorized

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive real property rights, domestic relations jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals.
- Traffic/other violation, except for parking.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

CIVIL COURT (Bibb and Richmond counties)

3 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($0/7500-0/25000), small claims ($0/7500-0/25000).
- Limited felony.

Jury trials in civil cases.

COUNTY RECORDER'S COURT (Chatham, De Kalb, Gwinnett, and Muscogee Counties)

8 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Limited felony, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
159 courts,
159 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Mental health, estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials only in counties with population greater than 100,000.

MUNICIPAL COURT (1 court in Columbus)

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($0/7500), small claims ($0/7500).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor.

Jury trials in civil cases.

MAGISTRATE COURT
(159 courts)

159 chief magistrates and 284 magistrates, 38 of whom also serve State, Probate, Juvenile, Civil, or Municipal Courts.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/5000), small claims ($0/5000).
- Limited felony, limited misdemeanor.
- Ordinance violation.

No jury trials.

STATE COURT (62 courts)

40 full-time and 45 part-time judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, small claims, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURTS AND THE CITY COURT OF ATLANTA
(~390 courts & judges)

CSP casetypes:
- Limited felony, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials except in Atlanta City Court.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

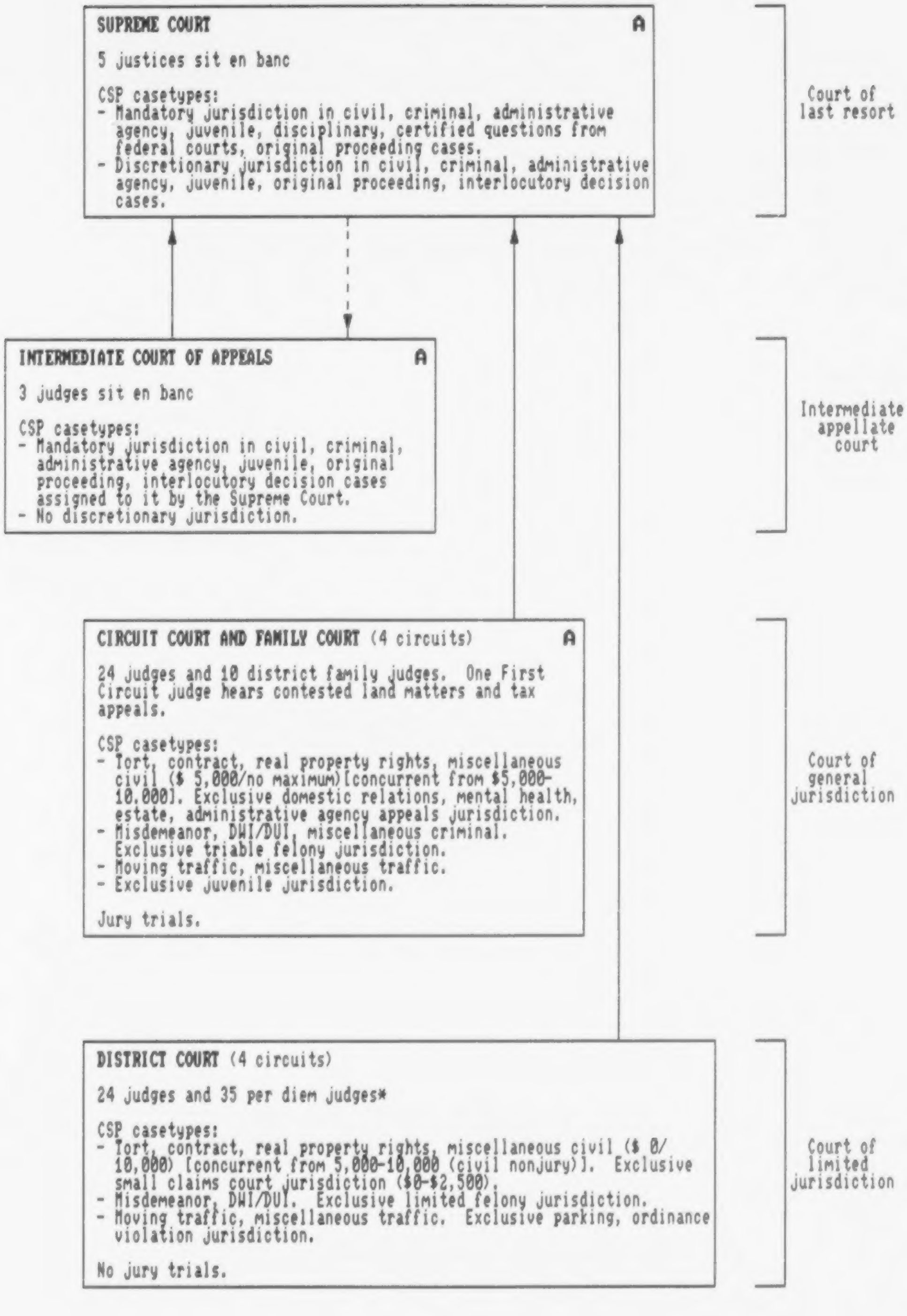
JUVENILE COURT (159 courts)

16 full-time, 35 part-time (2 of whom also serve as State Court judges), and 34 associate juvenile court judges. Superior Court judges serve in the counties without independent Juvenile Courts.

CSP casetypes:
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

HAWAII COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS A

3 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned to it by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT AND FAMILY COURT (4 circuits) A

24 judges and 10 district family judges. One First Circuit judge hears contested land matters and tax appeals.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($ 5,000/no maximum)[concurrent from $5,000-10,000]. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, administrative agency appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (4 circuits)

24 judges and 35 per diem judges*

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($ 0/10,000) [concurrent from 5,000-10,000 (civil nonjury)]. Exclusive small claims court jurisdiction ($0-$2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive parking, ordinance violation jurisdiction.

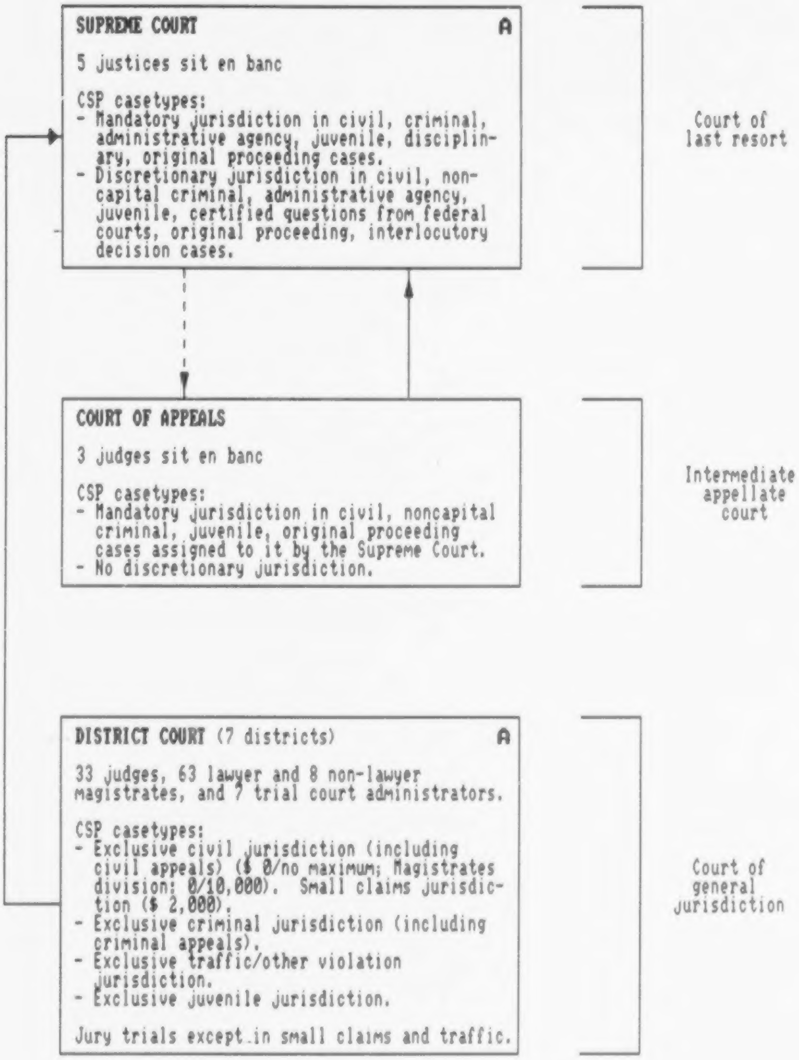
No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

---- Indicates assignment of cases.

* Some per diem judges are assigned to serve as per diem District & Family Court judges in the First Circuit.

IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

3 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases assigned to it by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (7 districts) A

33 judges, 63 lawyer and 8 non-lawyer magistrates, and 7 trial court administrators.

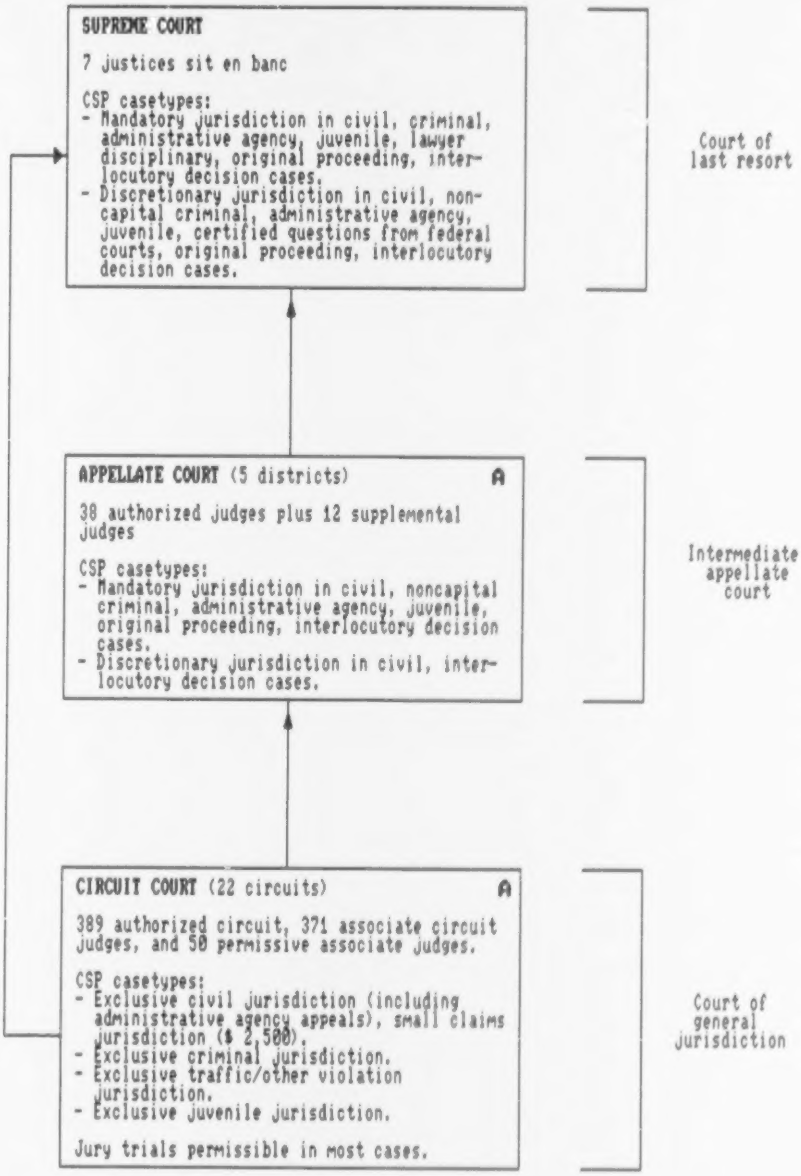
CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals) ($ 0/no maximum; Magistrates division: 0/10,000). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in small claims and traffic.

Court of general jurisdiction

---- indicates assignment of cases.

ILLINOIS COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE COURT (5 districts) A

38 authorized judges plus 12 supplemental judges

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, interlocutory decision cases.

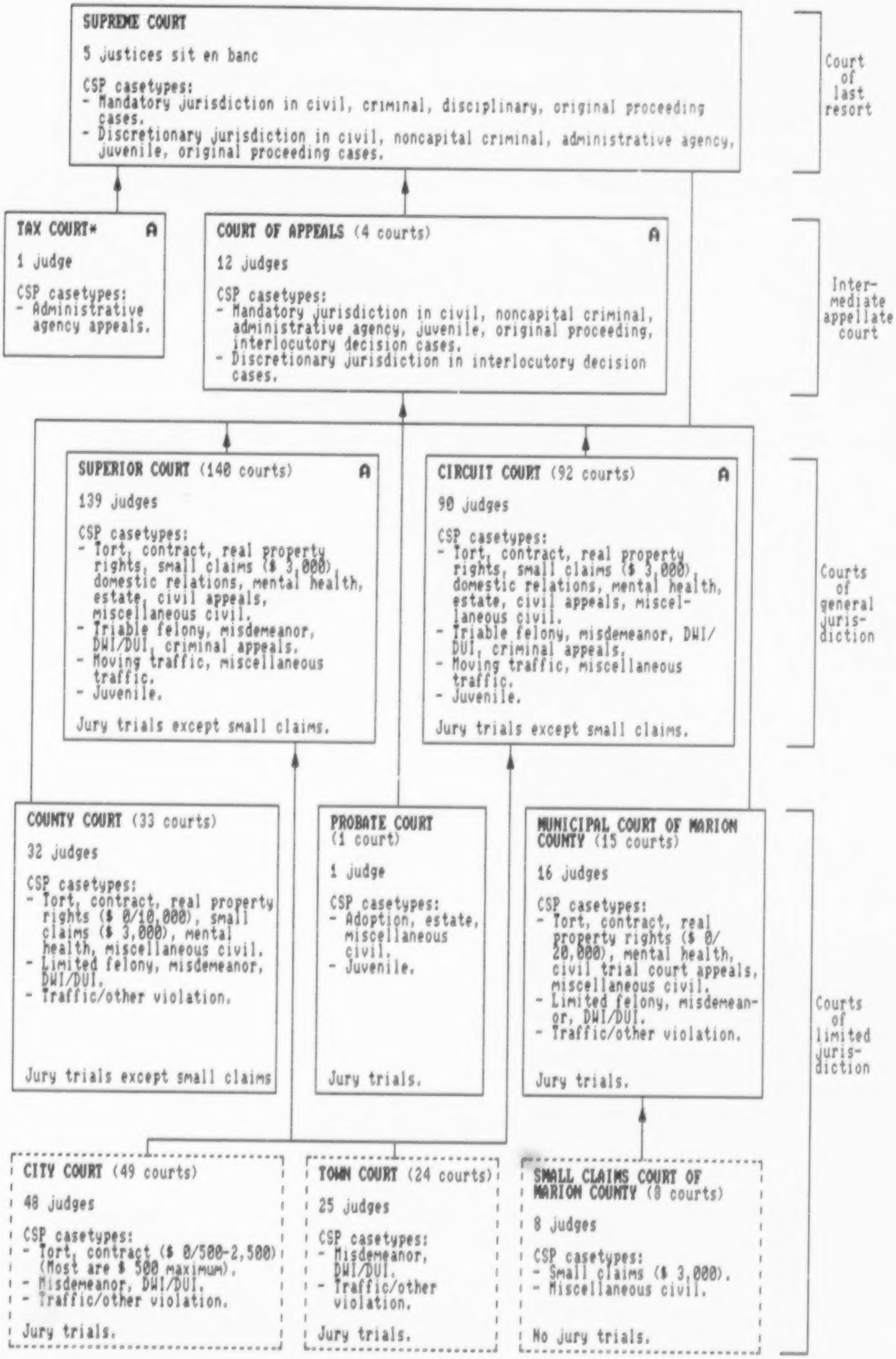
CIRCUIT COURT (22 circuits) A

389 authorized circuit, 371 associate circuit judges, and 50 permissive associate judges.

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including administrative agency appeals), small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,500).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials permissible in most cases.

INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

TAX COURT* A

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Administrative agency appeals.

COURT OF APPEALS (4 courts) A

12 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

SUPERIOR COURT (140 courts) A

139 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($ 3,000), domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Triable felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials except small claims.

CIRCUIT COURT (92 courts) A

90 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($ 3,000), domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Triable felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials except small claims.

Courts of general jurisdiction

COUNTY COURT (33 courts)

32 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), small claims ($ 3,000), mental health, miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except small claims

PROBATE COURT (1 court)

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Adoption, estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT OF MARION COUNTY (15 courts)

16 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/20,000), mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

CITY COURT (49 courts)

48 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/500-2,500) (Most are $ 500 maximum).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

TOWN COURT (24 courts)

25 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT OF MARION COUNTY (8 courts)

8 judges

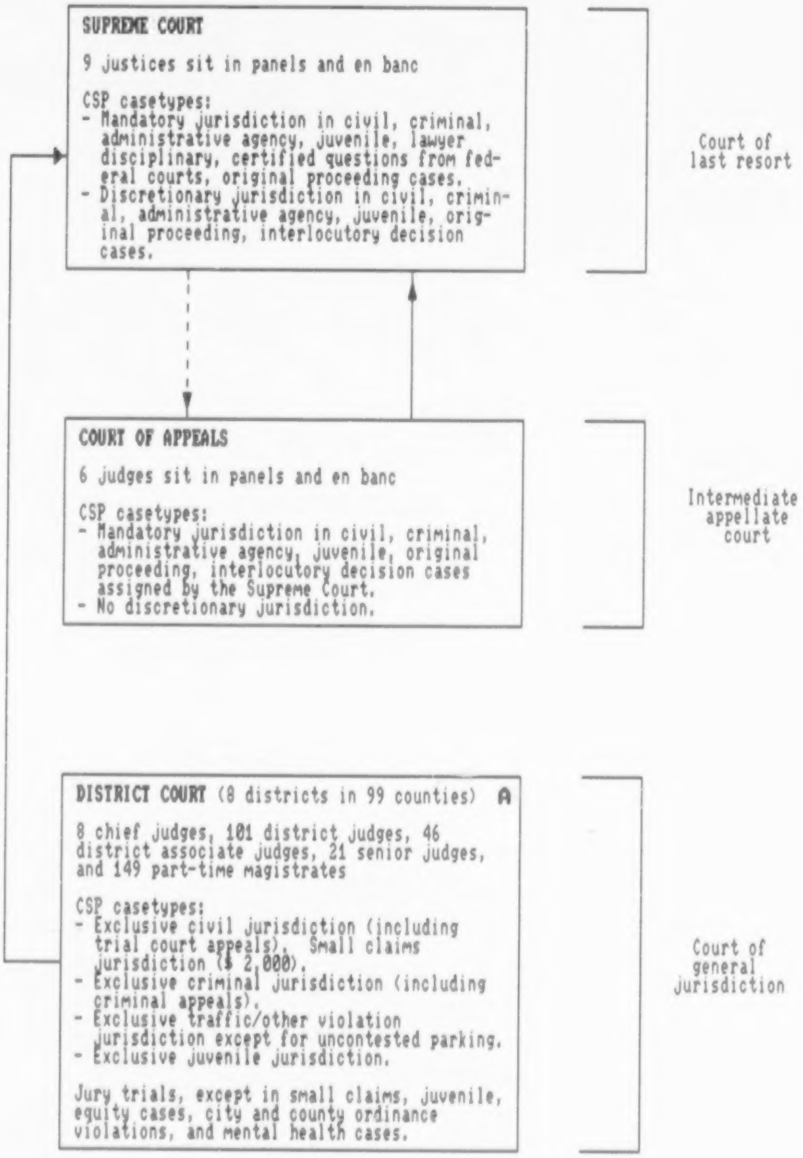
CSP casetypes:
- Small claims ($ 3,000).
- Miscellaneous civil.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

* The Tax Court was established in 1986.

IOWA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

9 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

6 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (8 districts in 99 counties) **A**

8 chief judges, 101 district judges, 46 district associate judges, 21 senior judges, and 149 part-time magistrates

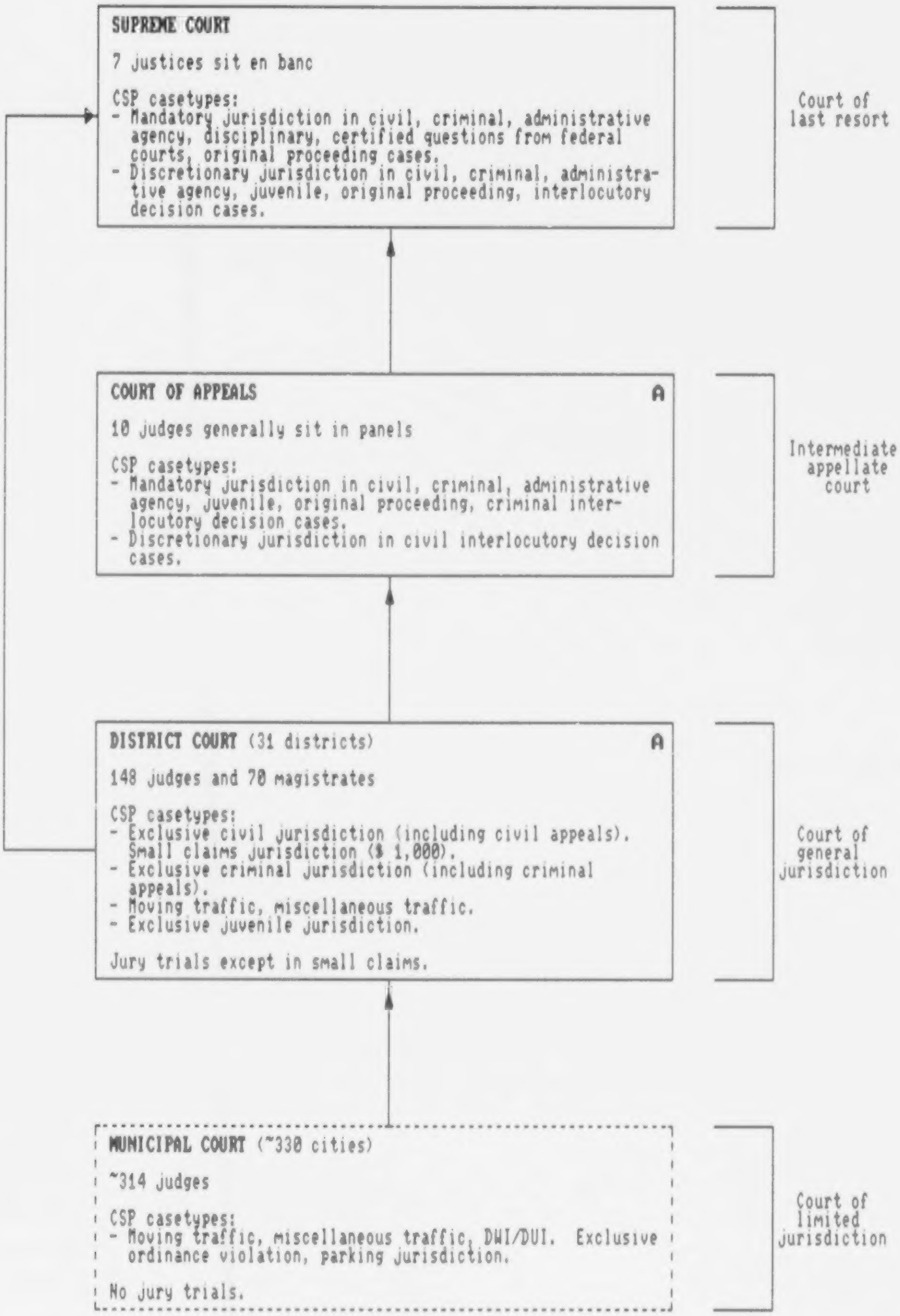
CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including trial court appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction except for uncontested parking.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials, except in small claims, juvenile, equity cases, city and county ordinance violations, and mental health cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

---- Indicates assignment of cases.

KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

10 judges generally sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, criminal interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (31 districts) A

148 judges and 70 magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 1,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in small claims.

Court of general jurisdiction

MUNICIPAL COURT (~330 cities)

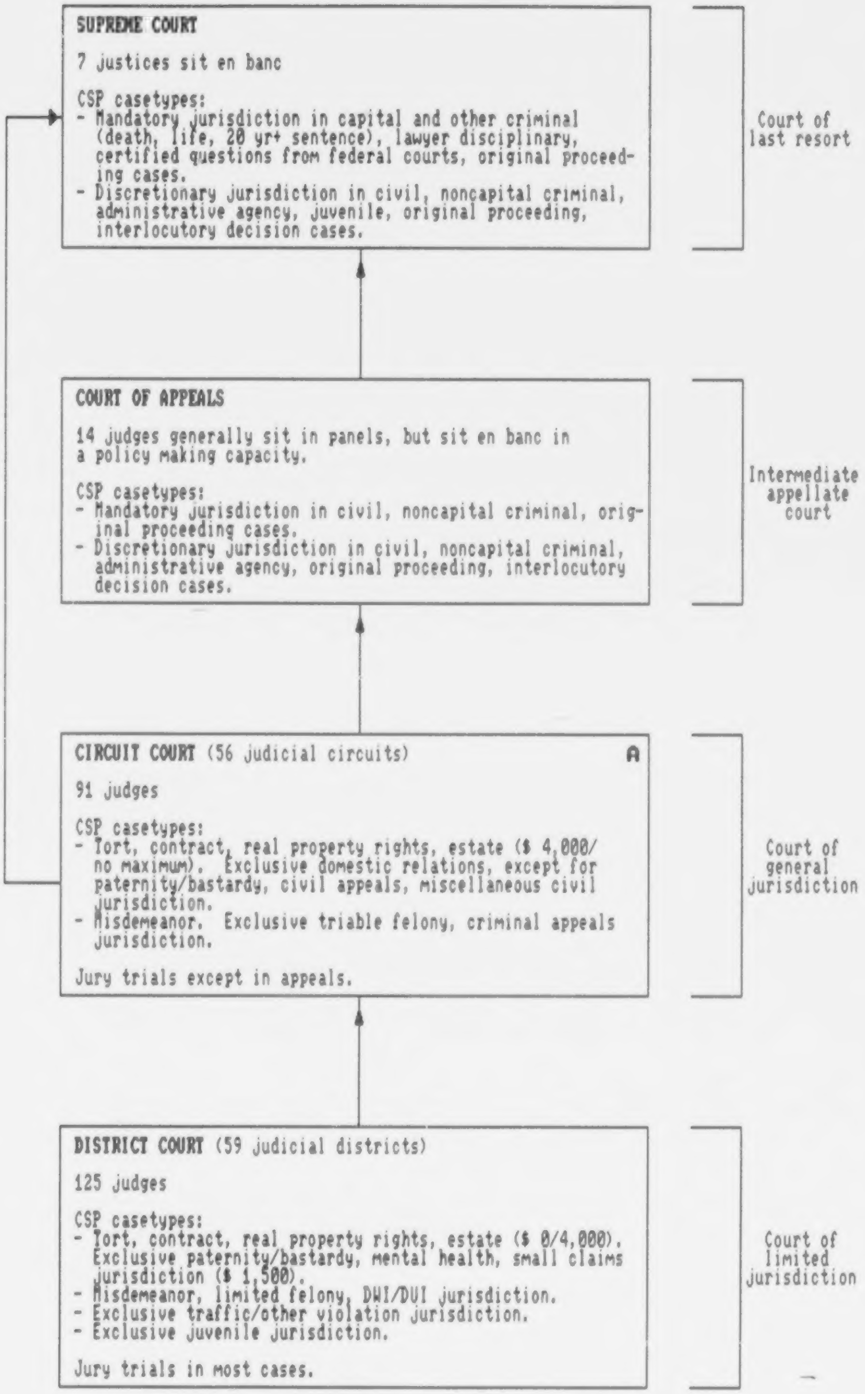
~314 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, DWI/DUI. Exclusive ordinance violation, parking jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in capital and other criminal (death, life, 20 yr+ sentence), lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

14 judges generally sit in panels, but sit en banc in a policy making capacity.

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT (56 judicial circuits) A

91 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, estate ($ 4,000/no maximum). Exclusive domestic relations, except for paternity/bastardy, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in appeals.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (59 judicial districts)

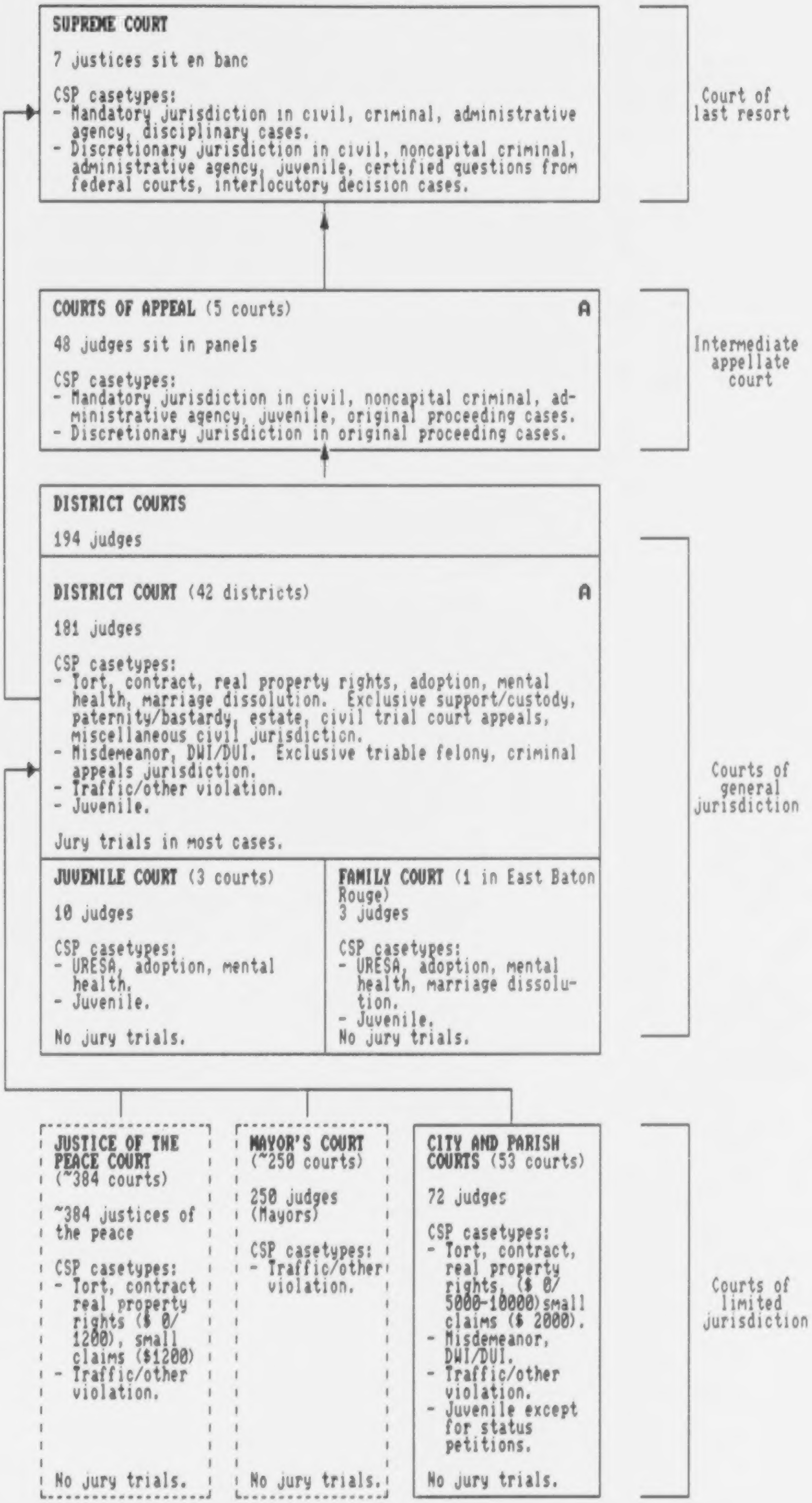
125 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, estate ($ 0/4,000). Exclusive paternity/bastardy, mental health, small claims jurisdiction ($ 1,500).
- Misdemeanor, limited felony, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of limited jurisdiction

LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990


Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Courts of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction
A
A

SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

COURTS OF APPEAL (5 courts)

48 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in original proceeding cases.

DISTRICT COURTS

194 judges

DISTRICT COURT (42 districts)

181 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, adoption, mental health, marriage dissolution. Exclusive support/custody, paternity/bastardy, estate, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials in most cases.

JUVENILE COURT (3 courts)

10 judges

CSP casetypes:
- URESA, adoption, mental health.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

FAMILY COURT (1 in East Baton Rouge)
3 judges

CSP casetypes:
- URESA, adoption, mental health, marriage dissolution.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT (~384 courts)

~384 justices of the peace

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract real property rights ($ 0/1200), small claims ($1200)
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

MAYOR'S COURT (~250 courts)

250 judges (Mayors)

CSP casetypes:
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

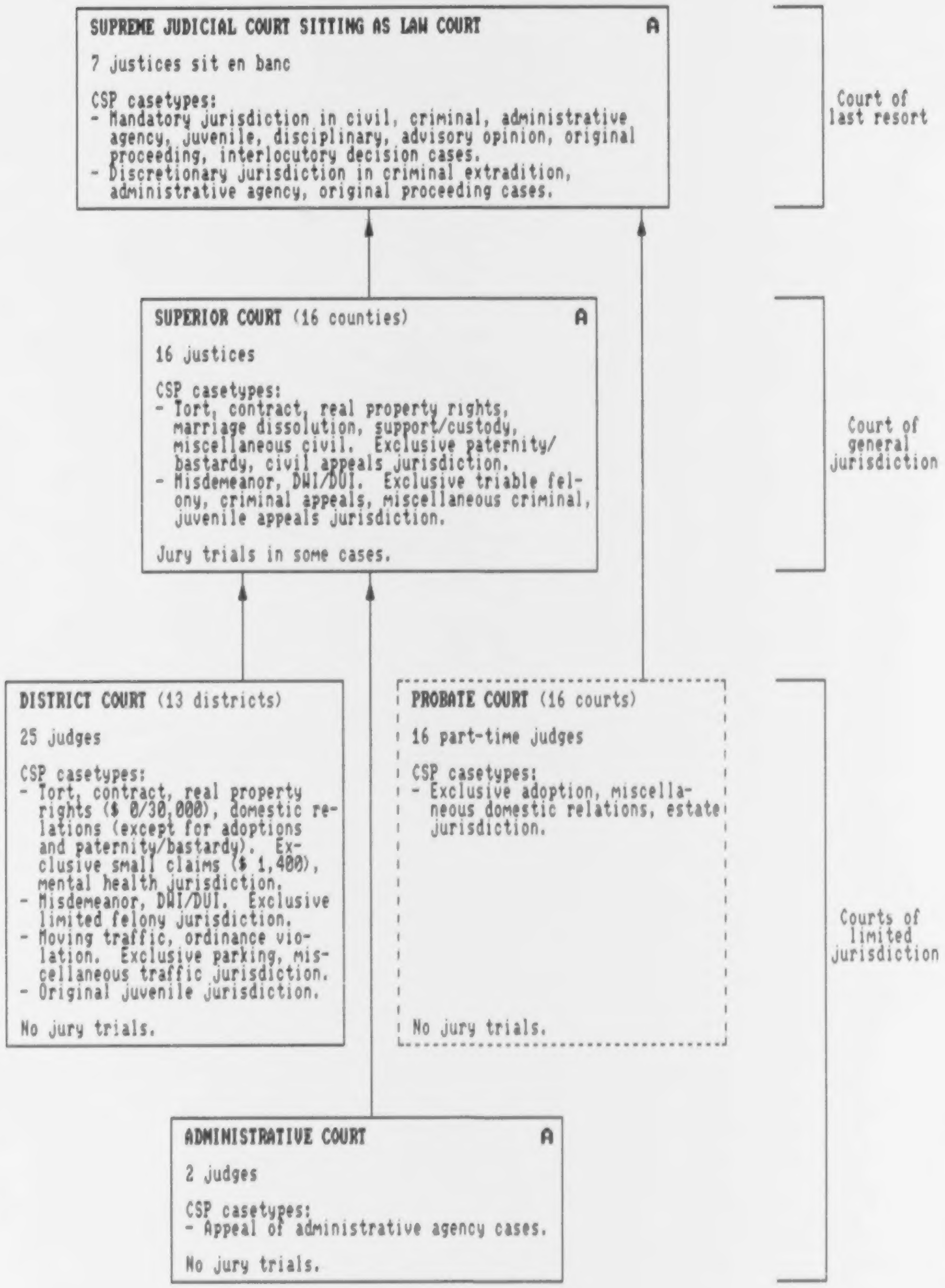
CITY AND PARISH COURTS (53 courts)

72 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, ($ 0/5000-10000) small claims ($ 2000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile except for status petitions.

No jury trials.

MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT SITTING AS LAW COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal extradition, administrative agency, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT (16 counties) A

16 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, marriage dissolution, support/custody, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive paternity/bastardy, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal, juvenile appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials in some cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (13 districts)

25 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/30,000), domestic relations (except for adoptions and paternity/bastardy). Exclusive small claims ($ 1,400), mental health jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, ordinance violation. Exclusive parking, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
- Original juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (16 courts)

16 part-time judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT A

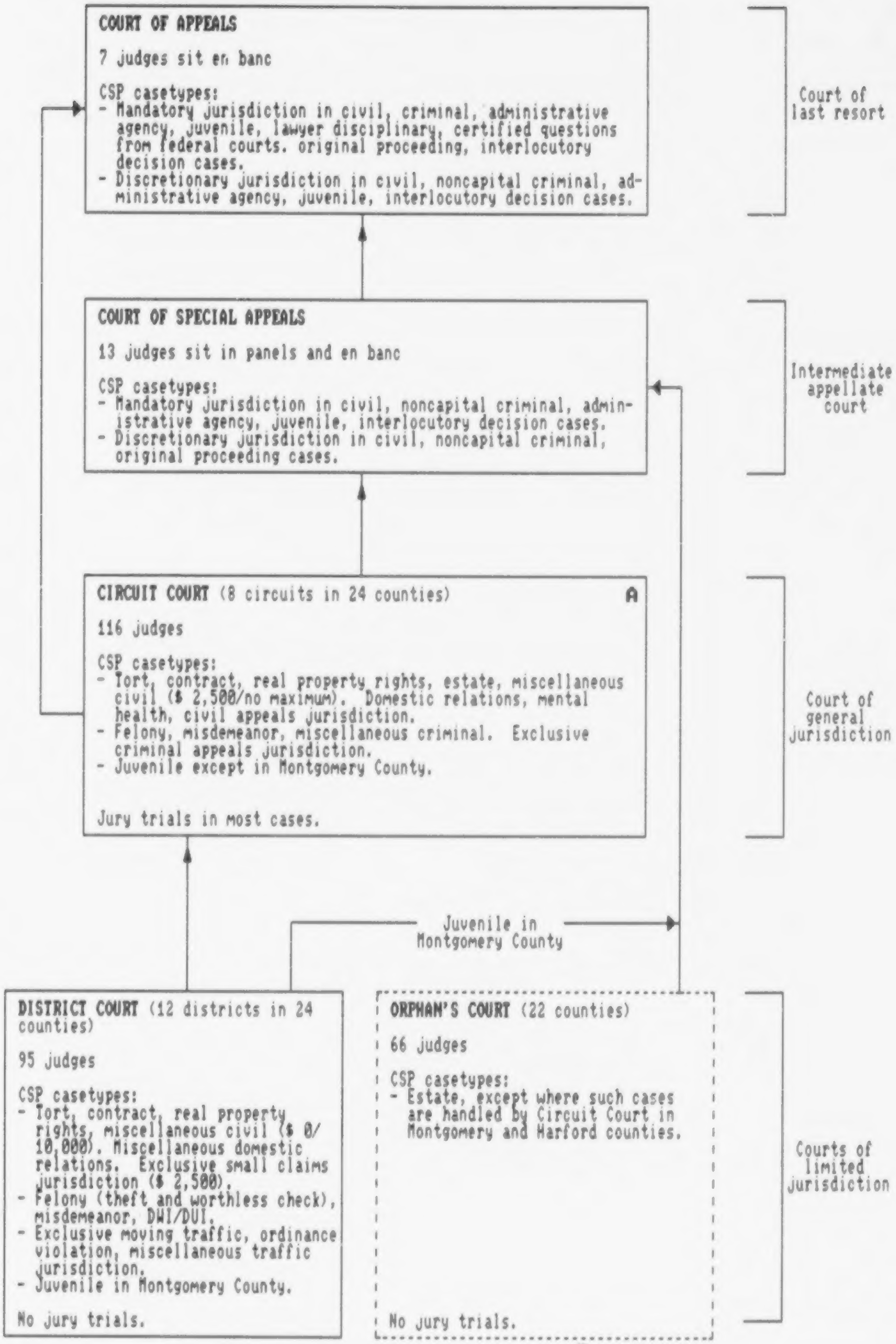
2 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Appeal of administrative agency cases.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



COURT OF APPEALS

7 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts. original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

13 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits in 24 counties) **A**

116 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, estate, miscellaneous civil ($ 2,500/no maximum). Domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Felony, misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile except in Montgomery County.

Jury trials in most cases.

DISTRICT COURT (12 districts in 24 counties)

95 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($ 0/10,000). Miscellaneous domestic relations. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,500).
- Felony (theft and worthless check), misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Exclusive moving traffic, ordinance violation, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
- Juvenile in Montgomery County.

No jury trials.

ORPHAN'S COURT (22 counties)

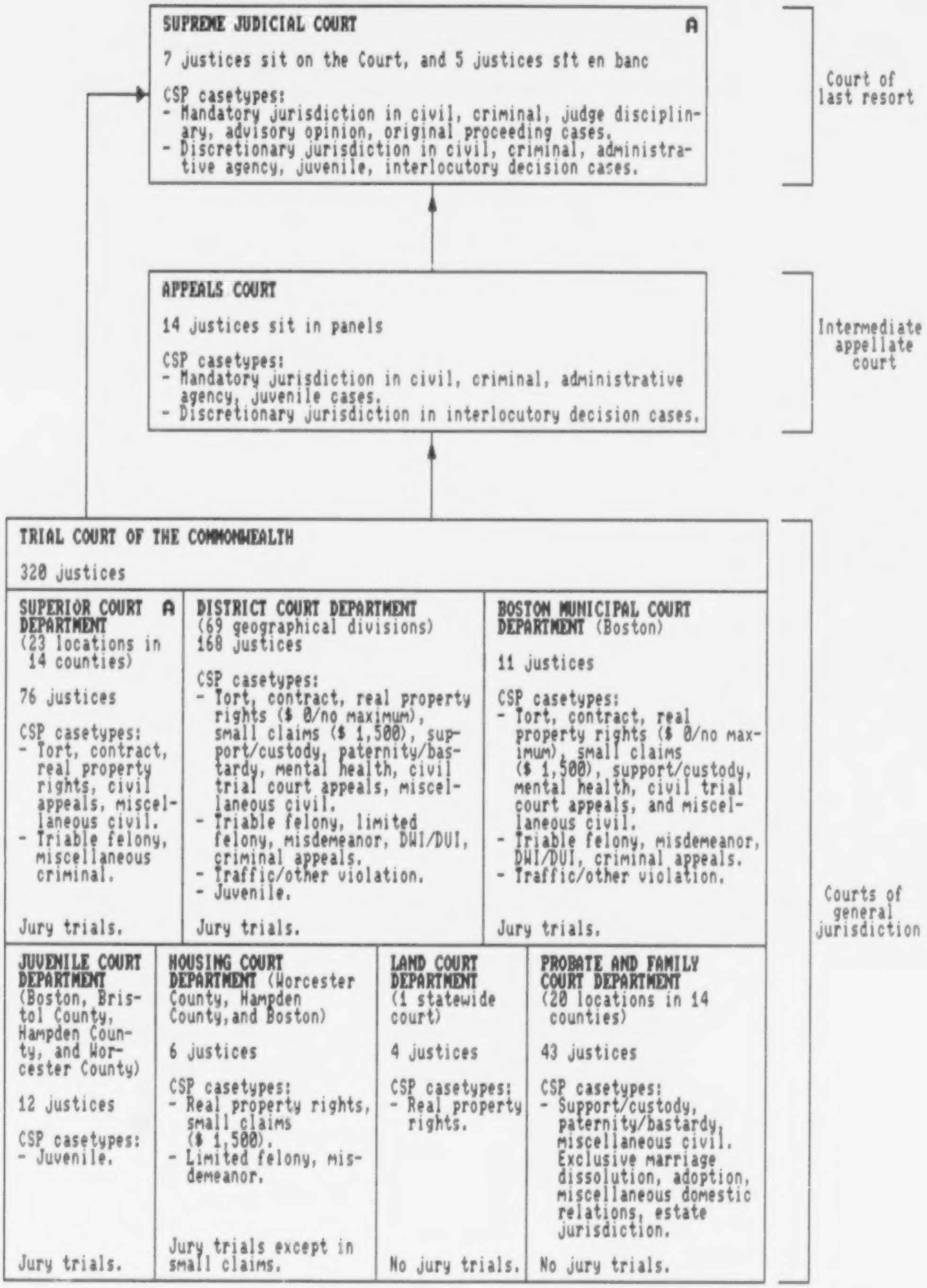
66 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Estate, except where such cases are handled by Circuit Court in Montgomery and Harford counties.

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction
Juvenile in Montgomery County

MASSACHUSETTS COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT A

7 justices sit on the Court, and 5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, judge disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

APPEALS COURT

14 justices sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

320 justices

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT A
(23 locations in 14 counties)

76 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Triable felony, miscellaneous criminal.

Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT
(69 geographical divisions)
168 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/no maximum), small claims ($ 1,500), support/custody, paternity/bastardy, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Triable felony, limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT (Boston)

11 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/no maximum), small claims ($ 1,500), support/custody, mental health, civil trial court appeals, and miscellaneous civil.
- Triable felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

JUVENILE COURT DEPARTMENT
(Boston, Bristol County, Hampden County, and Worcester County)

12 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

HOUSING COURT DEPARTMENT (Worcester County, Hampden County, and Boston)

6 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights, small claims ($ 1,500).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor.

Jury trials except in small claims.

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT
(1 statewide court)

4 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights.

No jury trials.

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
(20 locations in 14 counties)

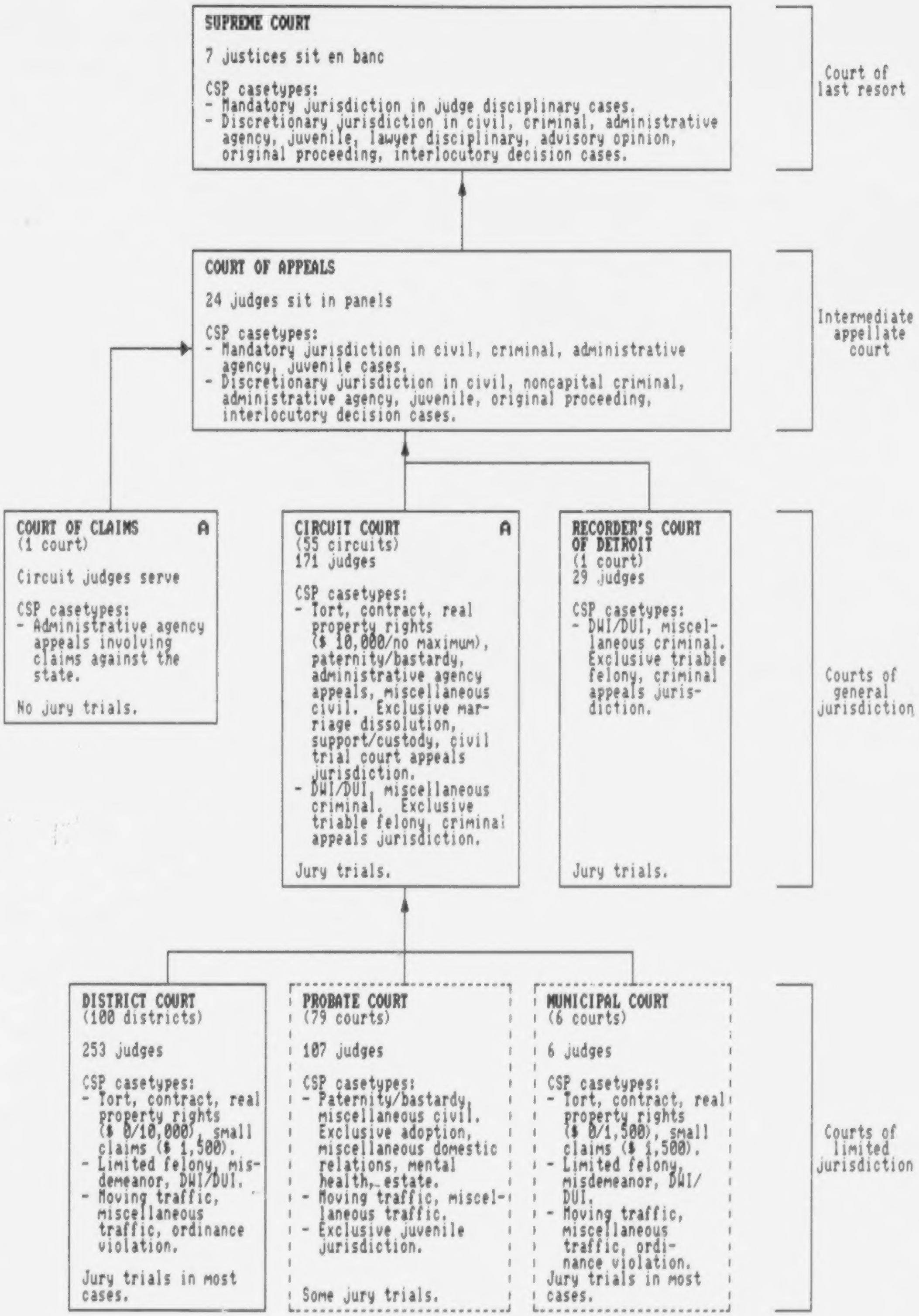
43 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Support/custody, paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive marriage dissolution, adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Courts of general jurisdiction

MICHIGAN COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in judge disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

24 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

COURT OF CLAIMS A
(1 court)

Circuit judges serve

CSP casetypes:
- Administrative agency appeals involving claims against the state.

No jury trials.

CIRCUIT COURT A
(55 circuits)
171 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 10,000/no maximum), paternity/bastardy, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive marriage dissolution, support/custody, civil trial court appeals jurisdiction.
- DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

RECORDER'S COURT OF DETROIT
(1 court)
29 judges

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Courts of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT
(100 districts)

253 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), small claims ($ 1,500).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.

Jury trials in most cases.

PROBATE COURT
(79 courts)

107 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, estate.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Some jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(6 courts)

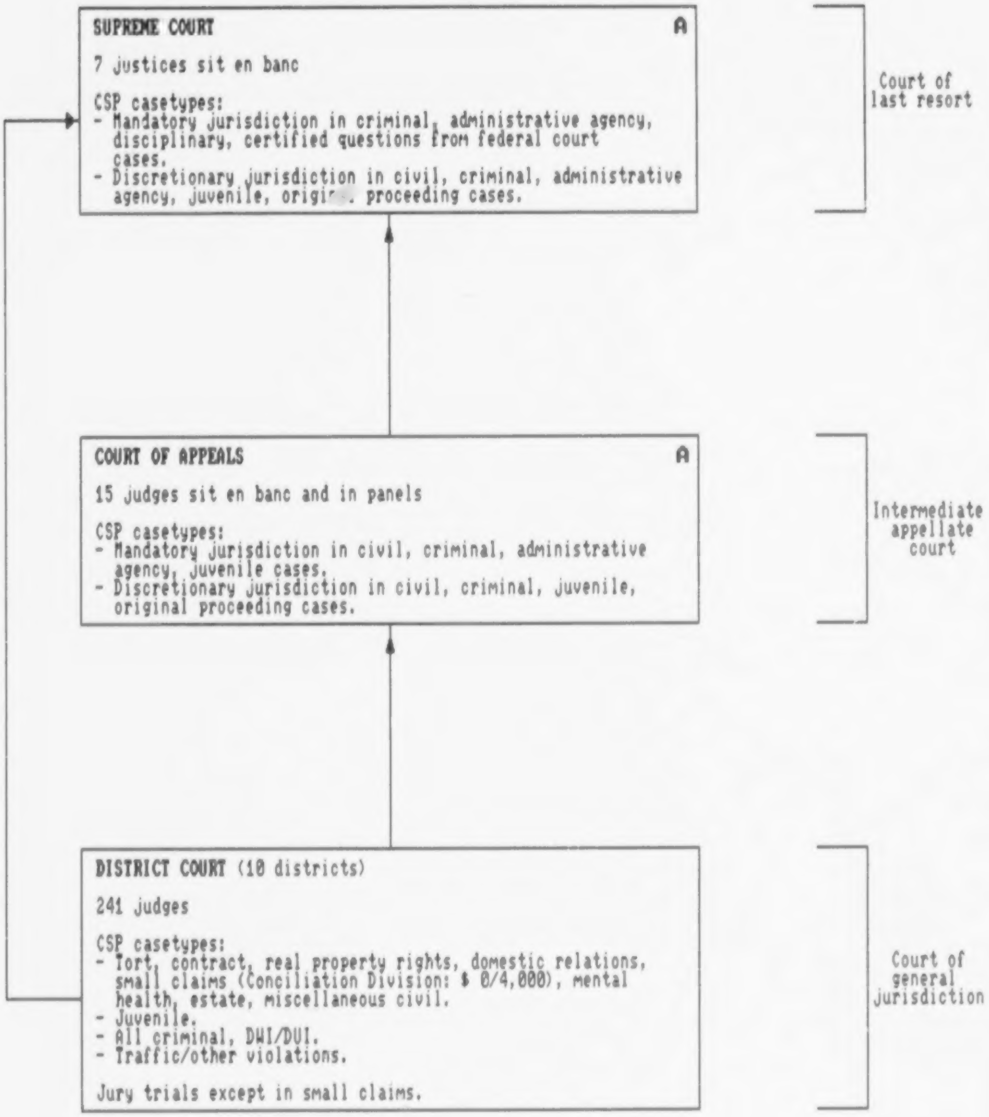
6 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/1,500), small claims ($ 1,500).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.

Jury trials in most cases.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

MINNESOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal court cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS

15 judges sit en banc and in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

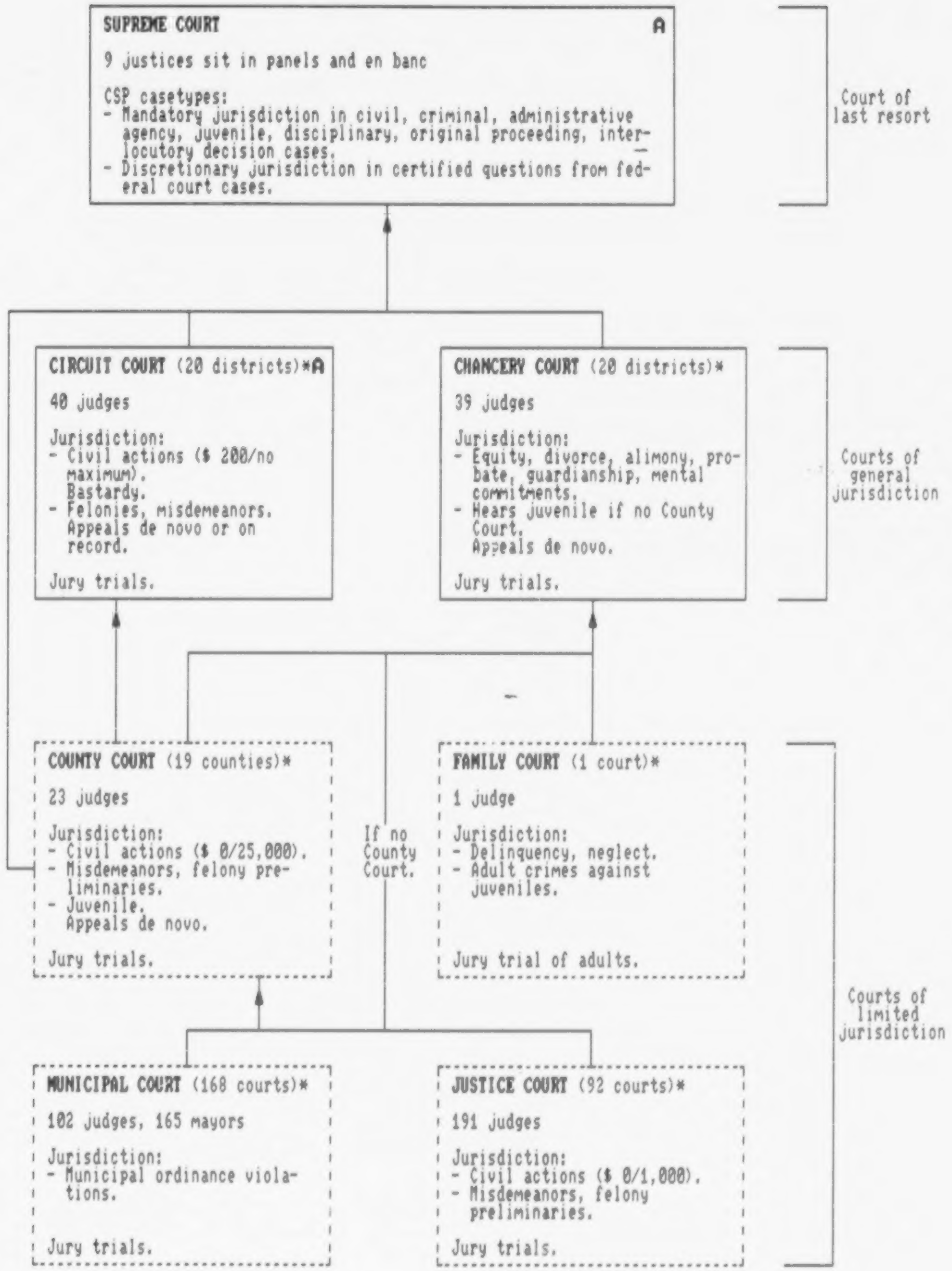
DISTRICT COURT (10 districts)

241 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, domestic relations, small claims (Conciliation Division: $ 0/4,000), mental health, estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Juvenile.
- All criminal, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violations.

Jury trials except in small claims.

MISSISSIPPI COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



Court of last resort
Courts of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction
If no County Court.

SUPREME COURT A

9 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in certified questions from federal court cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (20 districts)*A

40 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Civil actions ($ 200/no maximum). Bastardy.
- Felonies, misdemeanors. Appeals de novo or on record.

Jury trials.

CHANCERY COURT (20 districts)*

39 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Equity, divorce, alimony, probate, guardianship, mental commitments.
- Hears juvenile if no County Court. Appeals de novo.

Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (19 counties)*

23 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Civil actions ($ 0/25,000).
- Misdemeanors, felony preliminaries.
- Juvenile. Appeals de novo.

Jury trials.

FAMILY COURT (1 court)*

1 judge

Jurisdiction:
- Delinquency, neglect.
- Adult crimes against juveniles.

Jury trial of adults.

MUNICIPAL COURT (168 courts)*

102 judges, 165 mayors

Jurisdiction:
- Municipal ordinance violations.

Jury trials.

JUSTICE COURT (92 courts)*

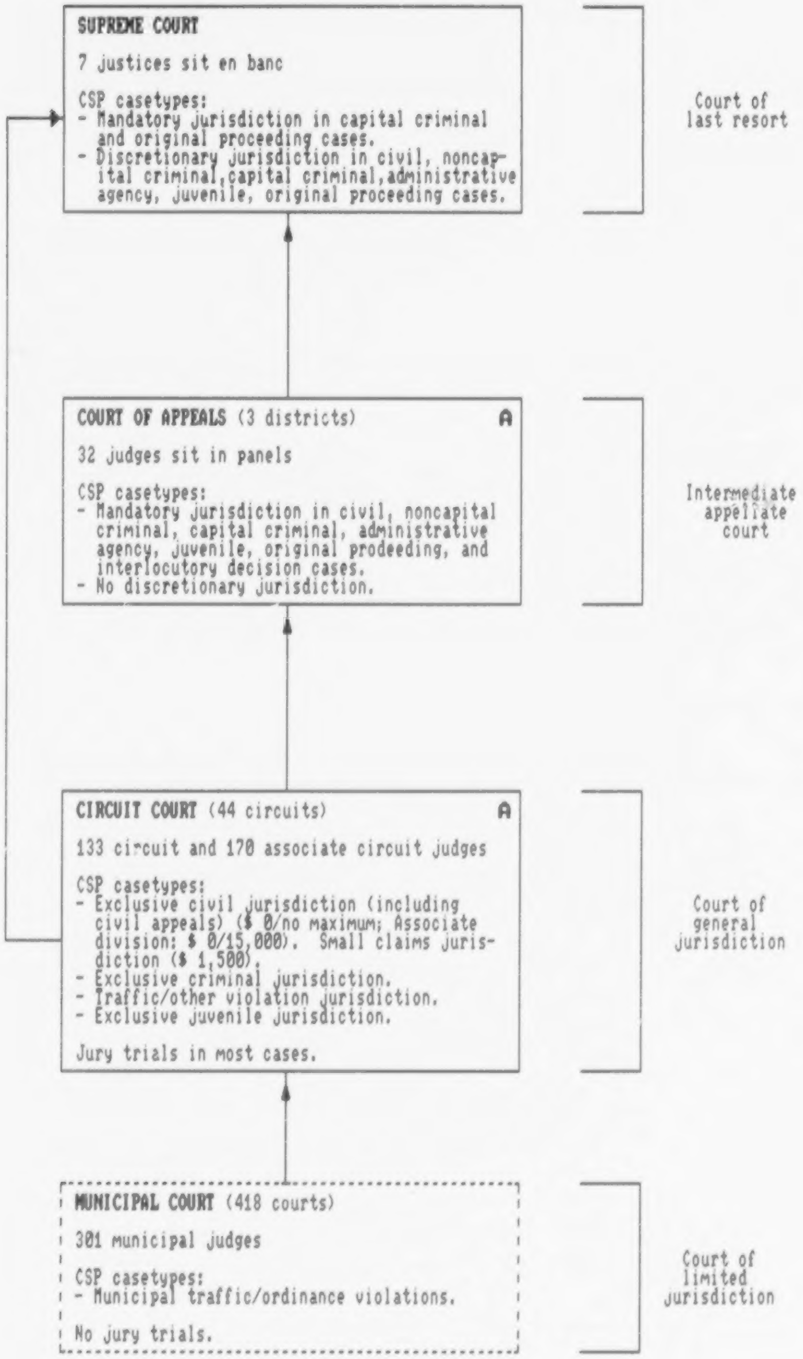
191 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Civil actions ($ 0/1,000).
- Misdemeanors, felony preliminaries.

Jury trials.

* A trial court jurisdiction guide was never completed by Mississippi, and data are unavailable for the trial courts; therefore, the trial court terminology reported in this court structure chart does not reflect CSP model reporting terms.

MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal and original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, capital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (3 districts) **A**

32 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, capital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original prodeeding, and interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (44 circuits) **A**

133 circuit and 170 associate circuit judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals) ($ 0/no maximum; Associate division: $ 0/15,000). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 1,500).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (418 courts)

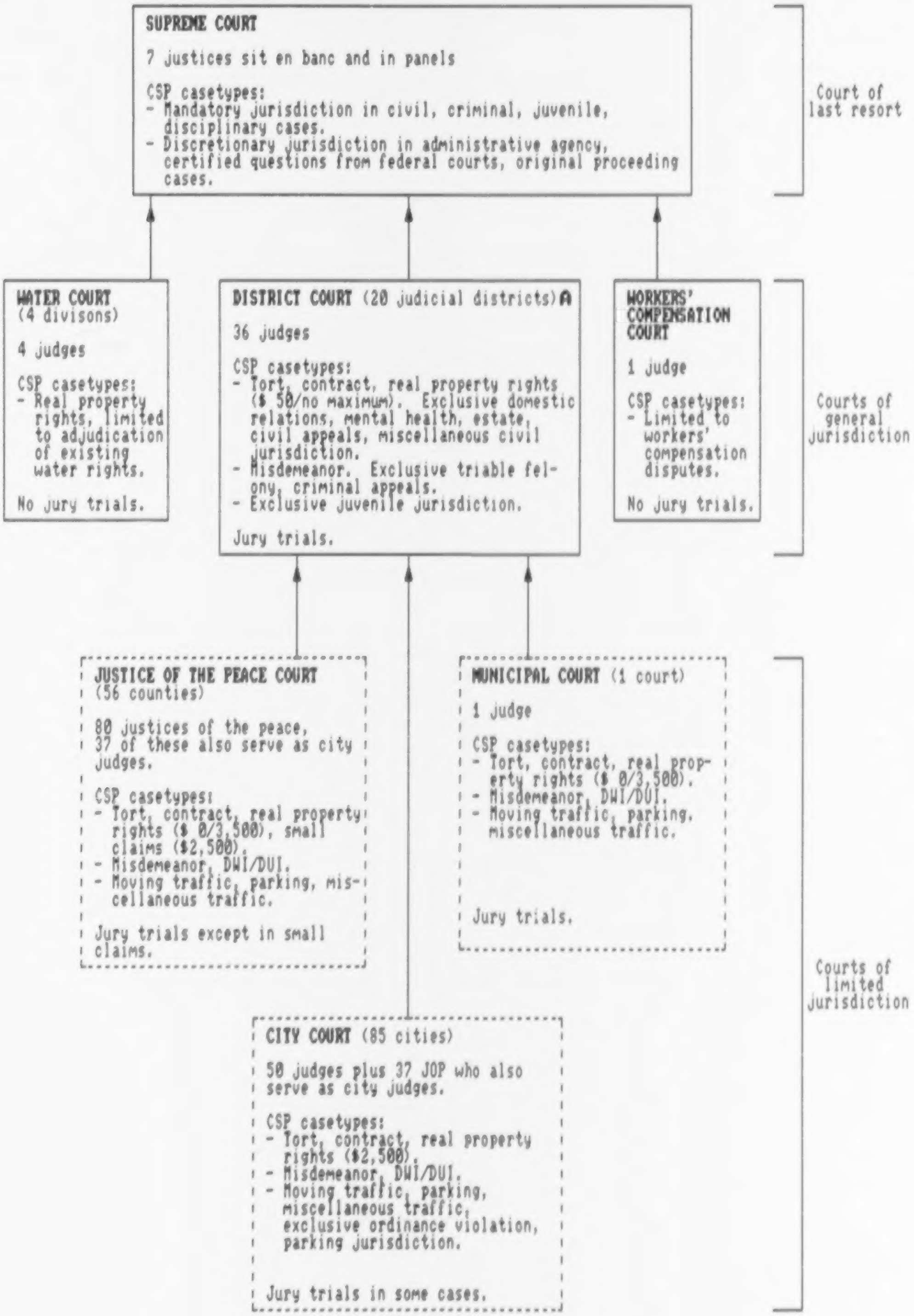
301 municipal judges

CSP casetypes:
- Municipal traffic/ordinance violations.

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Court of limited jurisdiction

MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc and in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

WATER COURT
(4 divisons)

4 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights, limited to adjudication of existing water rights.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (20 judicial districts) A

36 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 50/no maximum). Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Limited to workers' compensation disputes.

No jury trials.

Courts of general jurisdiction

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
(56 counties)

80 justices of the peace, 37 of these also serve as city judges.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/3,500), small claims ($2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (1 court)

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/3,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

CITY COURT (85 cities)

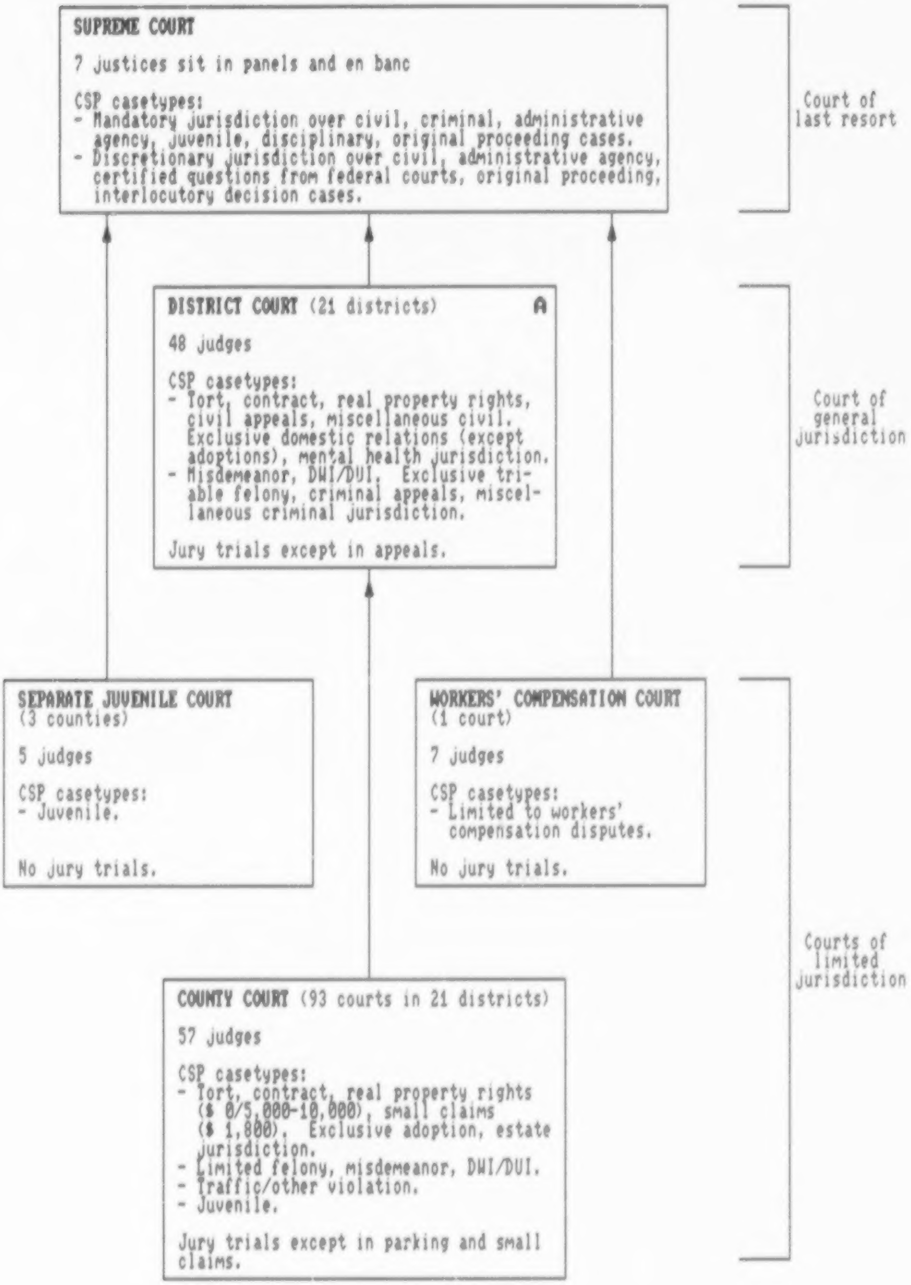
50 judges plus 37 JOP who also serve as city judges.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic, exclusive ordinance violation, parking jurisdiction.

Jury trials in some cases.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction over civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction over civil, administrative agency, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

DISTRICT COURT (21 districts) A

48 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations (except adoptions), mental health jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in appeals.

Court of general jurisdiction

SEPARATE JUVENILE COURT (3 counties)

5 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT (1 court)

7 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Limited to workers' compensation disputes.

No jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (93 courts in 21 districts)

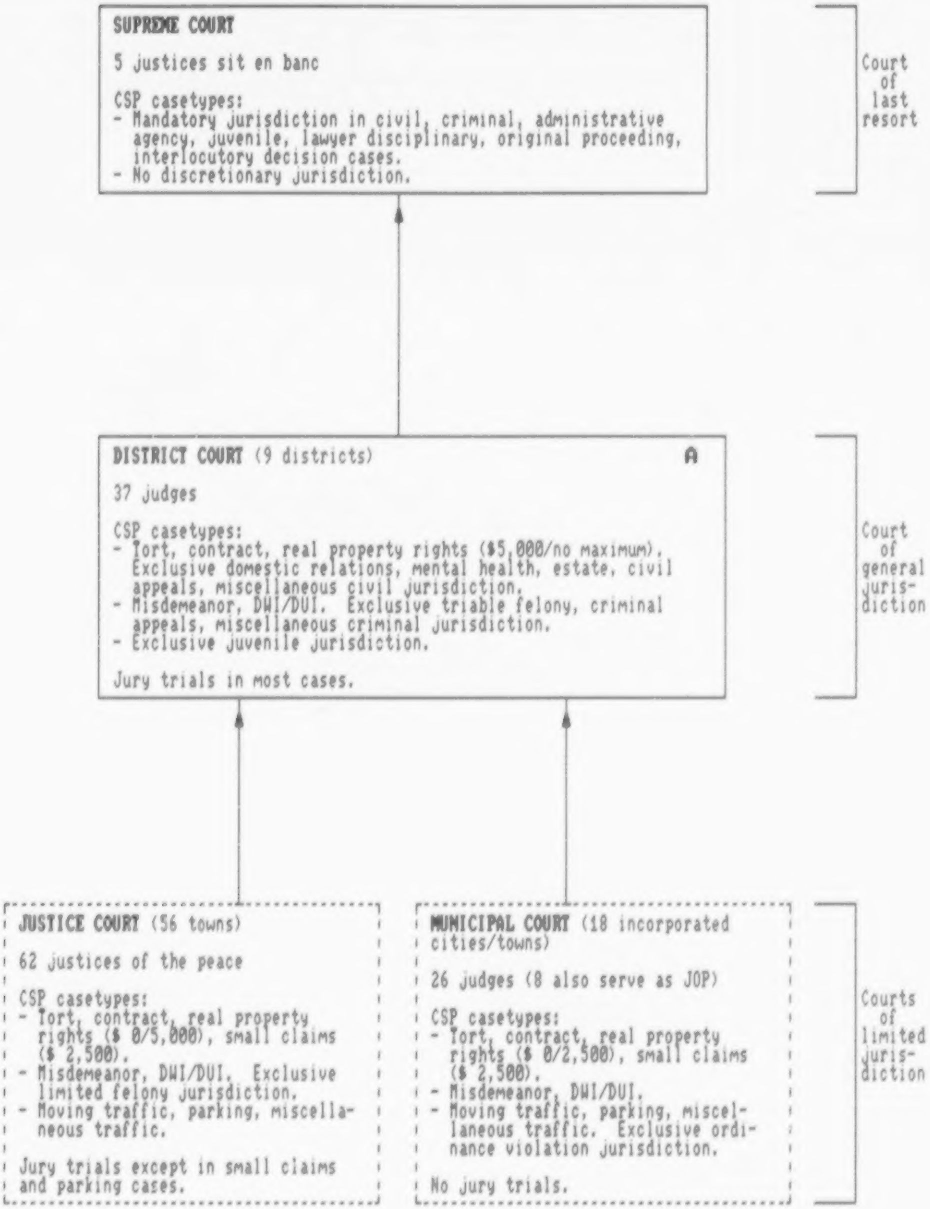
57 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/5,000-10,000), small claims ($ 1,800). Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials except in parking and small claims.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

NEVADA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Court of last resort

DISTRICT COURT (9 districts) A

37 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($5,000/no maximum). Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

JUSTICE COURT (56 towns)

62 justices of the peace

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/5,000), small claims ($ 2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials except in small claims and parking cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (18 incorporated cities/towns)

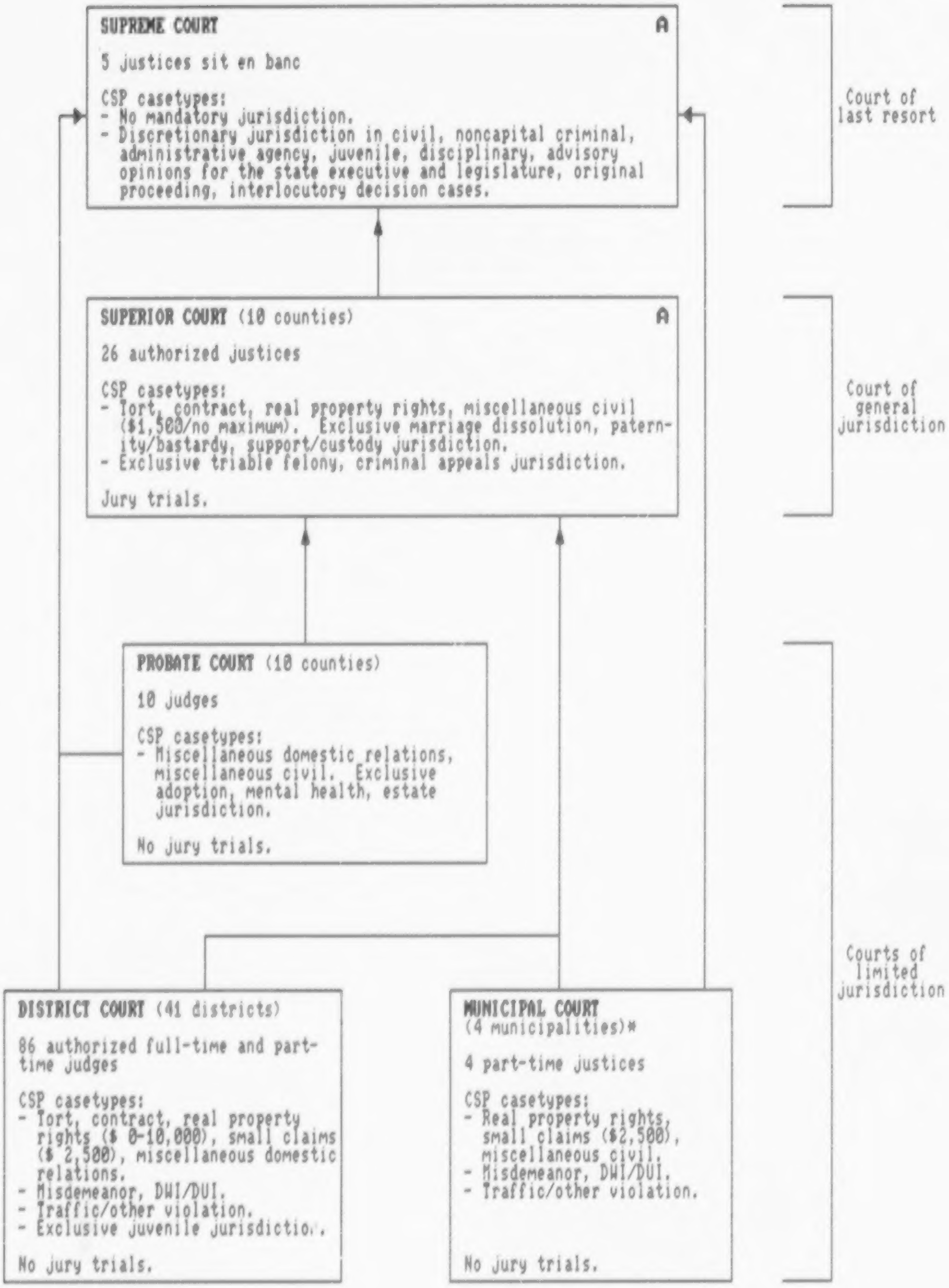
26 judges (8 also serve as JOP)

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/2,500), small claims ($ 2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- No mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinions for the state executive and legislature, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (10 counties) A

26 authorized justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($1,500/no maximum). Exclusive marriage dissolution, paternity/bastardy, support/custody jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (10 counties)

10 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Miscellaneous domestic relations, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, mental health, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (41 districts)

86 authorized full-time and part-time judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0-10,000), small claims ($ 2,500), miscellaneous domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(4 municipalities)*

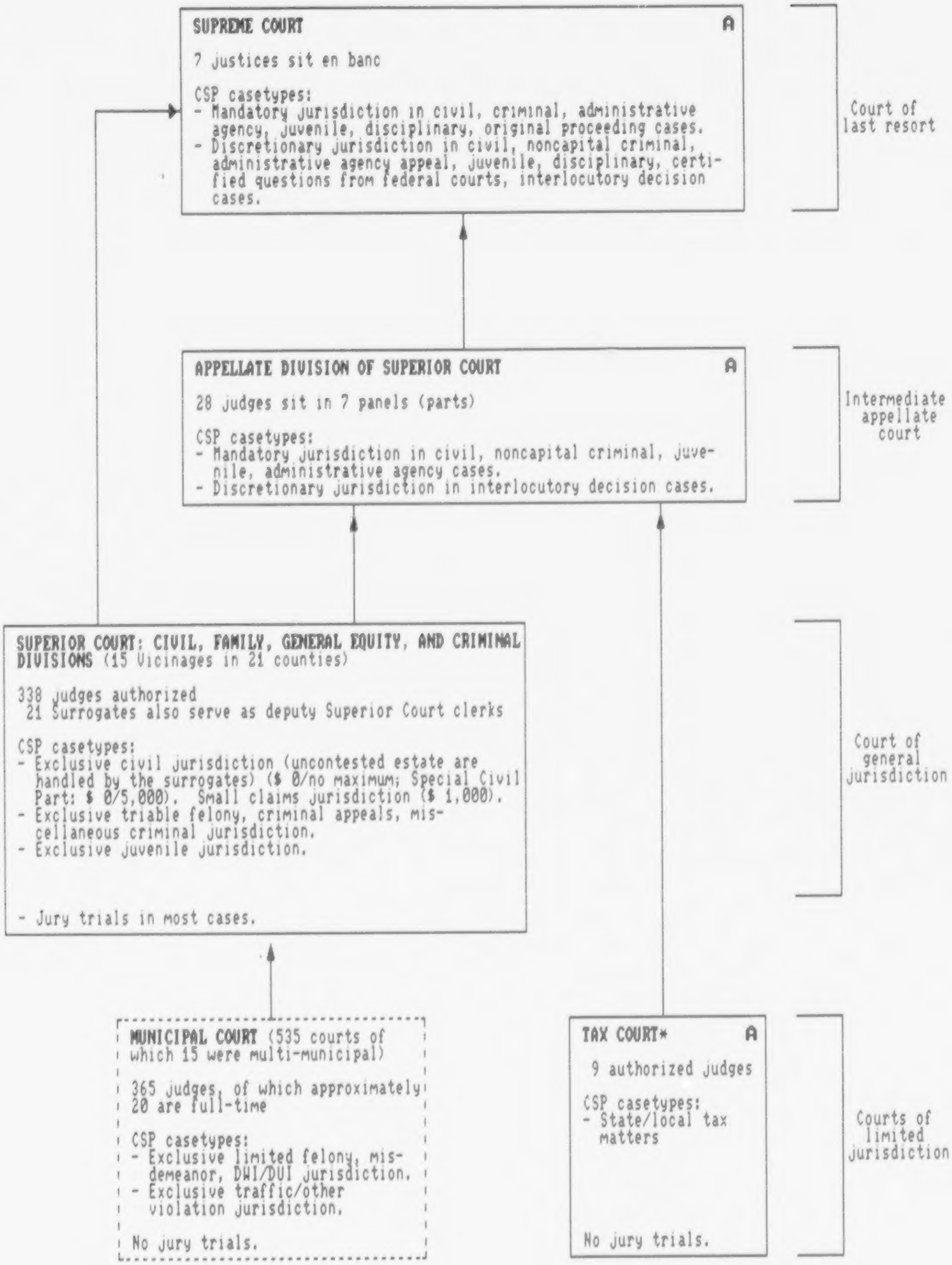
4 part-time justices

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights, small claims ($2,500), miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

* The Municipal Court is being phased out (by statute) upon retirement and/or resignation of sitting justices.

NEW JERSEY COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency appeal, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE DIVISION OF SUPERIOR COURT A

28 judges sit in 7 panels (parts)

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, administrative agency cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT: CIVIL, FAMILY, GENERAL EQUITY, AND CRIMINAL DIVISIONS (15 Vicinages in 21 counties)

338 judges authorized
21 Surrogates also serve as deputy Superior Court clerks

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (uncontested estate are handled by the surrogates) ($ 0/no maximum; Special Civil Part: $ 0/5,000). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 1,000).
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

- Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (535 courts of which 15 were multi-municipal)

365 judges, of which approximately 20 are full-time

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

TAX COURT* A

9 authorized judges

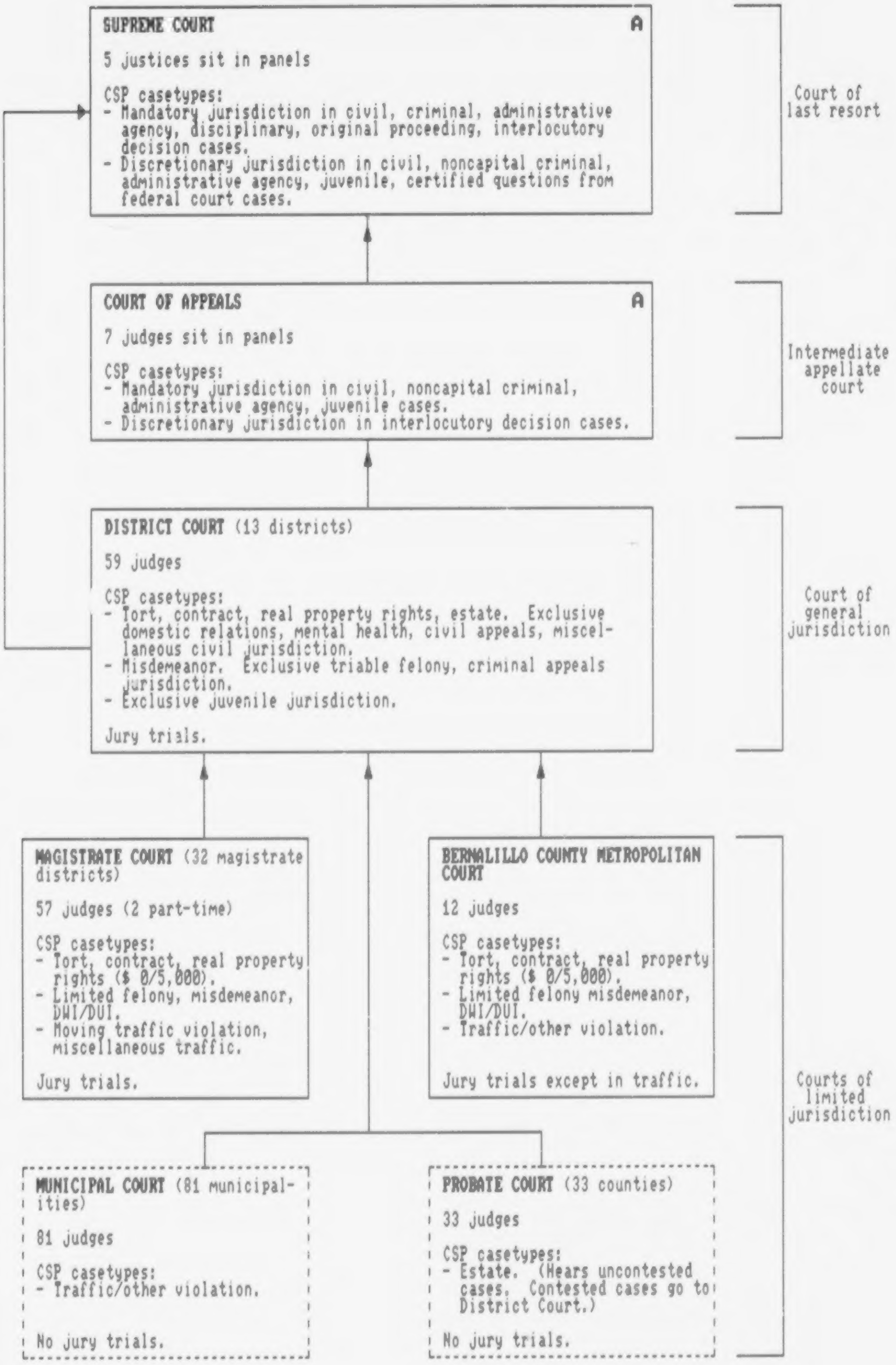
CSP casetypes:
- State/local tax matters

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

* Tax Court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax Court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as Superior Court judges and can be cross assigned.

NEW MEXICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal court cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

7 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (13 districts)

59 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, estate. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

MAGISTRATE COURT (32 magistrate districts)

57 judges (2 part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/5,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic violation, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

12 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/5,000).
- Limited felony misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except in traffic.

MUNICIPAL COURT (81 municipalities)

81 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (33 counties)

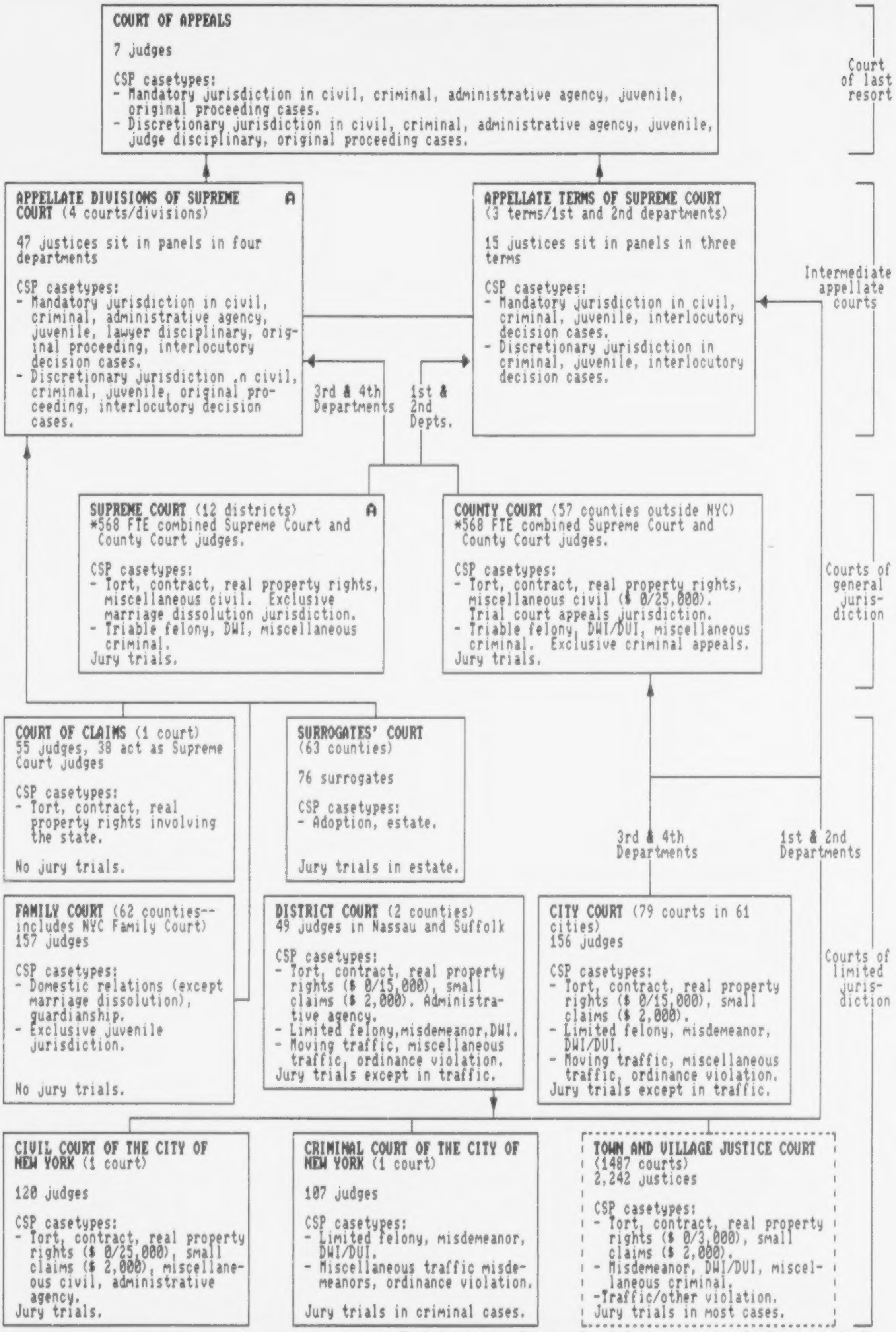
33 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Estate. (Hears uncontested cases. Contested cases go to District Court.)

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



COURT OF APPEALS

7 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, judge disciplinary, original proceeding cases.

APPELLATE DIVISIONS OF SUPREME COURT (4 courts/divisions)

47 justices sit in panels in four departments

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction .n civil, criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE TERMS OF SUPREME COURT (3 terms/1st and 2nd departments)

15 justices sit in panels in three terms

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPREME COURT (12 districts)
*568 FTE combined Supreme Court and County Court judges.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive marriage dissolution jurisdiction.
- Triable felony, DWI, miscellaneous criminal.

Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (57 counties outside NYC)
*568 FTE combined Supreme Court and County Court judges.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($ 0/25,000). Trial court appeals jurisdiction.
- Triable felony, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive criminal appeals.

Jury trials.

COURT OF CLAIMS (1 court)
55 judges, 38 act as Supreme Court judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights involving the state.

No jury trials.

SURROGATES' COURT
(63 counties)

76 surrogates

CSP casetypes:
- Adoption, estate.

Jury trials in estate.

FAMILY COURT (62 counties--includes NYC Family Court)
157 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Domestic relations (except marriage dissolution), guardianship.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (2 counties)
49 judges in Nassau and Suffolk

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/15,000), small claims ($ 2,000). Administrative agency.
- Limited felony,misdemeanor,DWI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.

Jury trials except in traffic.

CITY COURT (79 courts in 61 cities)
156 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/15,000), small claims ($ 2,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.

Jury trials except in traffic.

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK (1 court)

120 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/25,000), small claims ($ 2,000), miscellaneous civil, administrative agency.

Jury trials.

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK (1 court)

107 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Miscellaneous traffic misdemeanors, ordinance violation.

Jury trials in criminal cases.

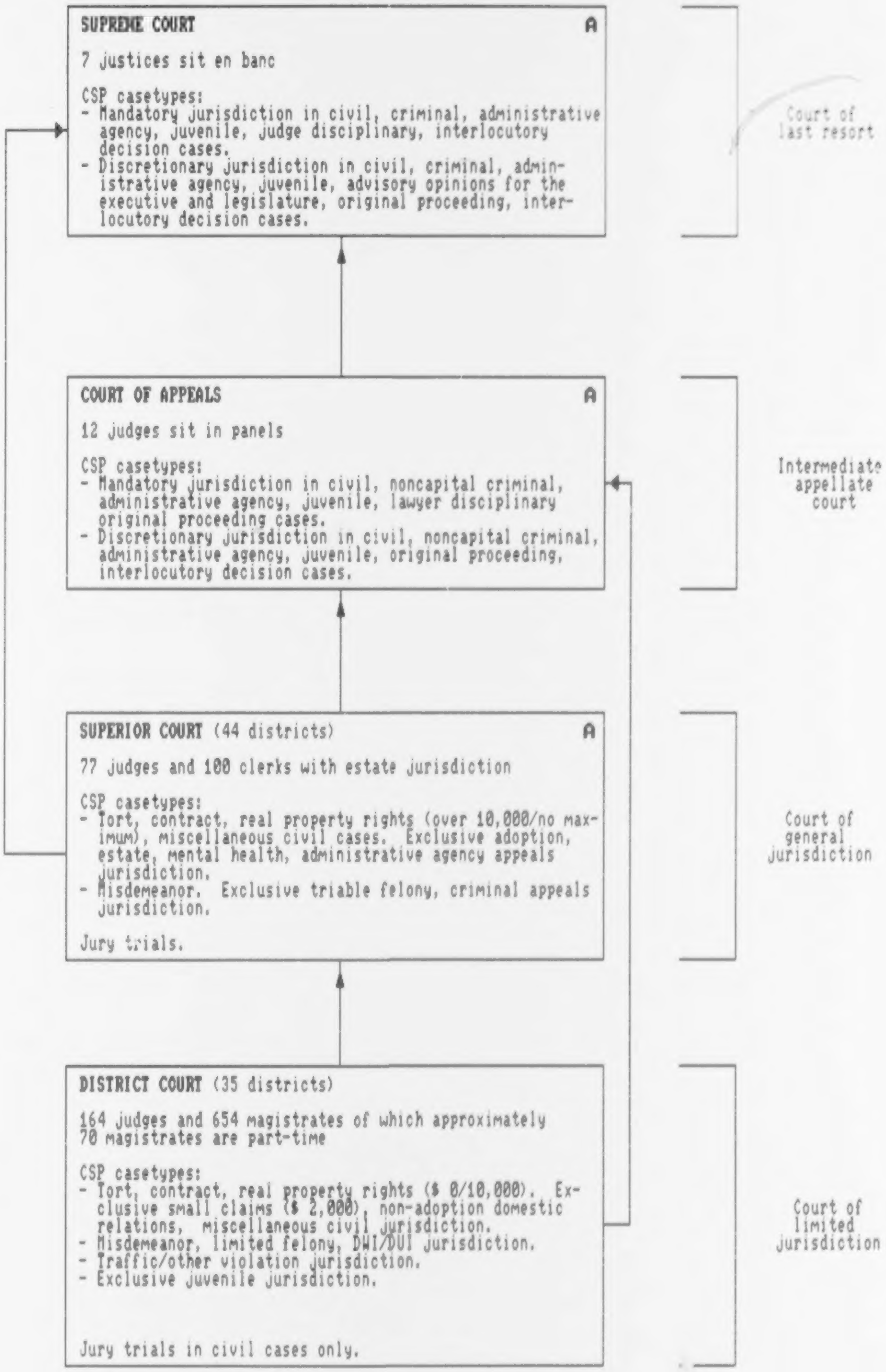
TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT
(1487 courts)
2,242 justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/3,000), small claims ($ 2,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials in most cases.

* Includes Acting Supreme Court Justices assigned administratively.

NORTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, judge disciplinary, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinions for the executive and legislature, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

12 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

SUPERIOR COURT (44 districts) A

77 judges and 100 clerks with estate jurisdiction

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights (over 10,000/no maximum), miscellaneous civil cases. Exclusive adoption, estate, mental health, administrative agency appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (35 districts)

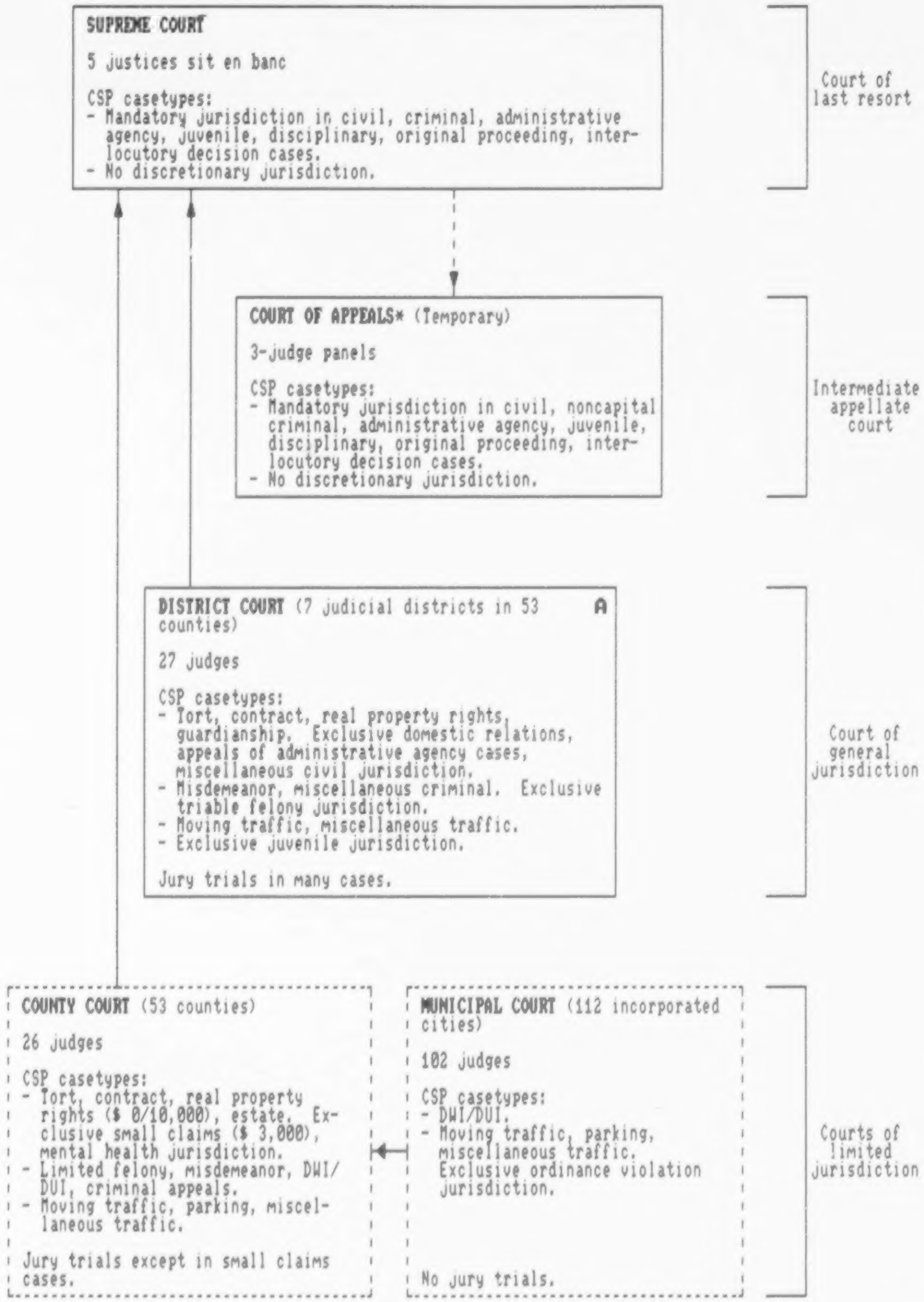
164 judges and 654 magistrates of which approximately 70 magistrates are part-time

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000). Exclusive small claims ($ 2,000), non-adoption domestic relations, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, limited felony, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in civil cases only.

Court of limited jurisdiction

NORTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS* (Temporary)

3-judge panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (7 judicial districts in 53 counties) **A**

27 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, guardianship. Exclusive domestic relations, appeals of administrative agency cases, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive triable felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in many cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

COUNTY COURT (53 counties)

26 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), estate. Exclusive small claims ($ 3,000), mental health jurisdiction.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials except in small claims cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (112 incorporated cities)

102 judges

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

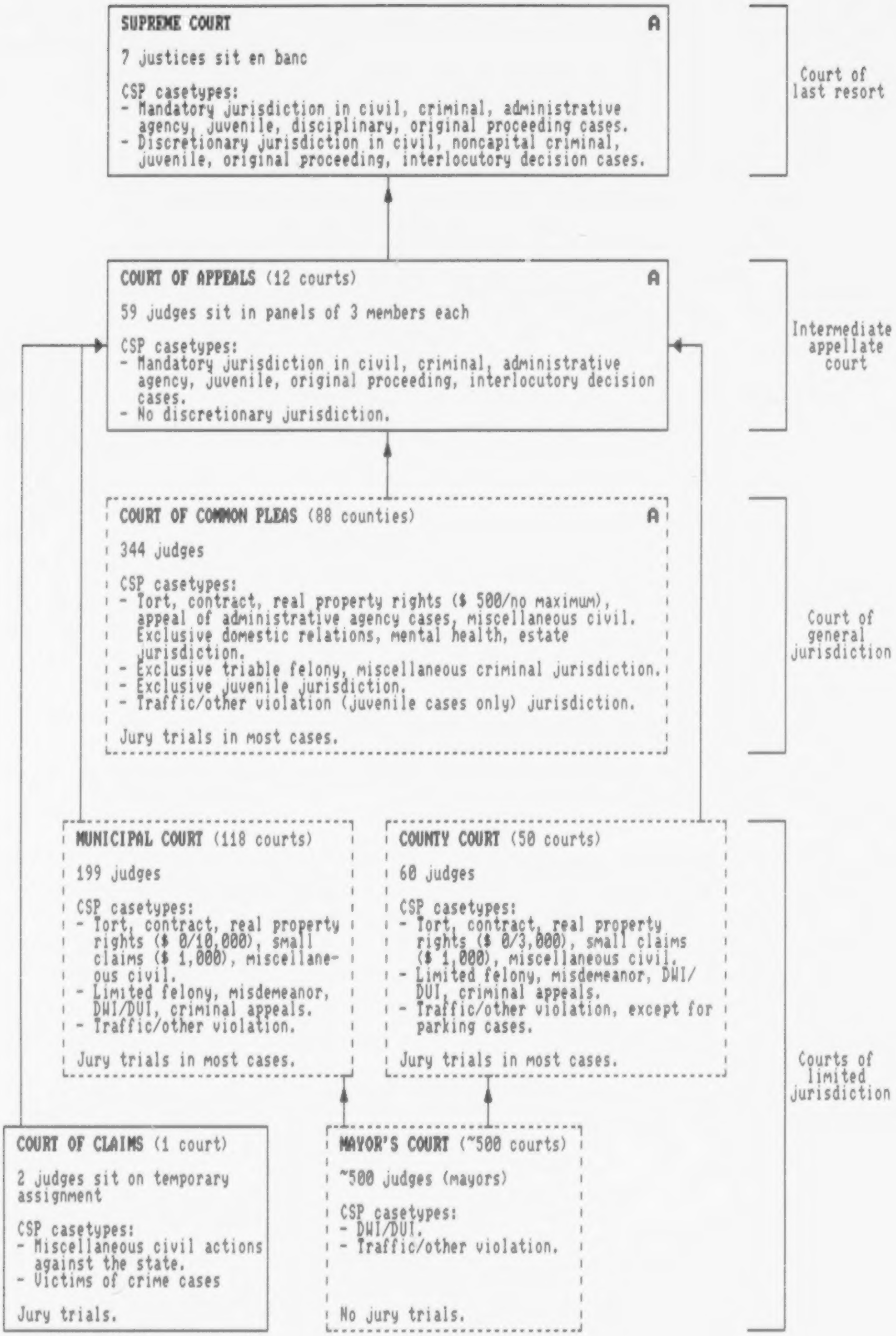
No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

---- Indicates assignment of cases.

* Effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1994, a temporary Court of Appeals is established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the Supreme Court.

OHIO COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (12 courts) A

59 judges sit in panels of 3 members each

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (88 counties) A

344 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 500/no maximum), appeal of administrative agency cases, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation (juvenile cases only) jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (118 courts)

199 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), small claims ($ 1,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials in most cases.

COUNTY COURT (50 courts)

60 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/3,000), small claims ($ 1,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Traffic/other violation, except for parking cases.

Jury trials in most cases.

COURT OF CLAIMS (1 court)

2 judges sit on temporary assignment

CSP casetypes:
- Miscellaneous civil actions against the state.
- Victims of crime cases

Jury trials.

MAYOR'S COURT (~500 courts)

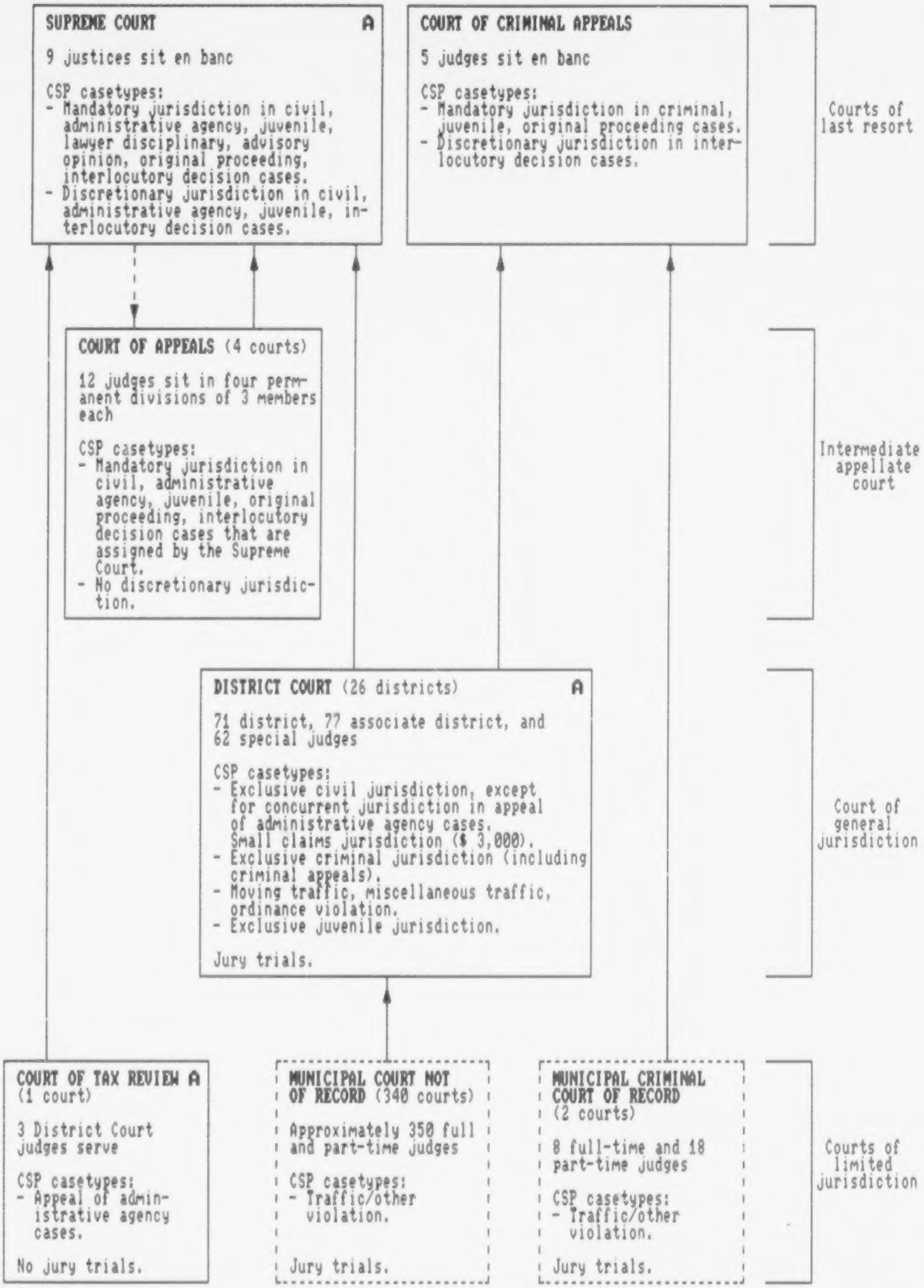
~500 judges (mayors)

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

OKLAHOMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

9 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

5 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Courts of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS (4 courts)

12 judges sit in four permanent divisions of 3 members each

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases that are assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (26 districts) A

71 district, 77 associate district, and 62 special judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction, except for concurrent jurisdiction in appeal of administrative agency cases. Small claims jurisdiction ($ 3,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

COURT OF TAX REVIEW A (1 court)

3 District Court judges serve

CSP casetypes:
- Appeal of administrative agency cases.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT NOT OF RECORD (340 courts)

Approximately 350 full and part-time judges

CSP casetypes:
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL CRIMINAL COURT OF RECORD (2 courts)

8 full-time and 18 part-time judges

CSP casetypes:
- Traffic/other violation.

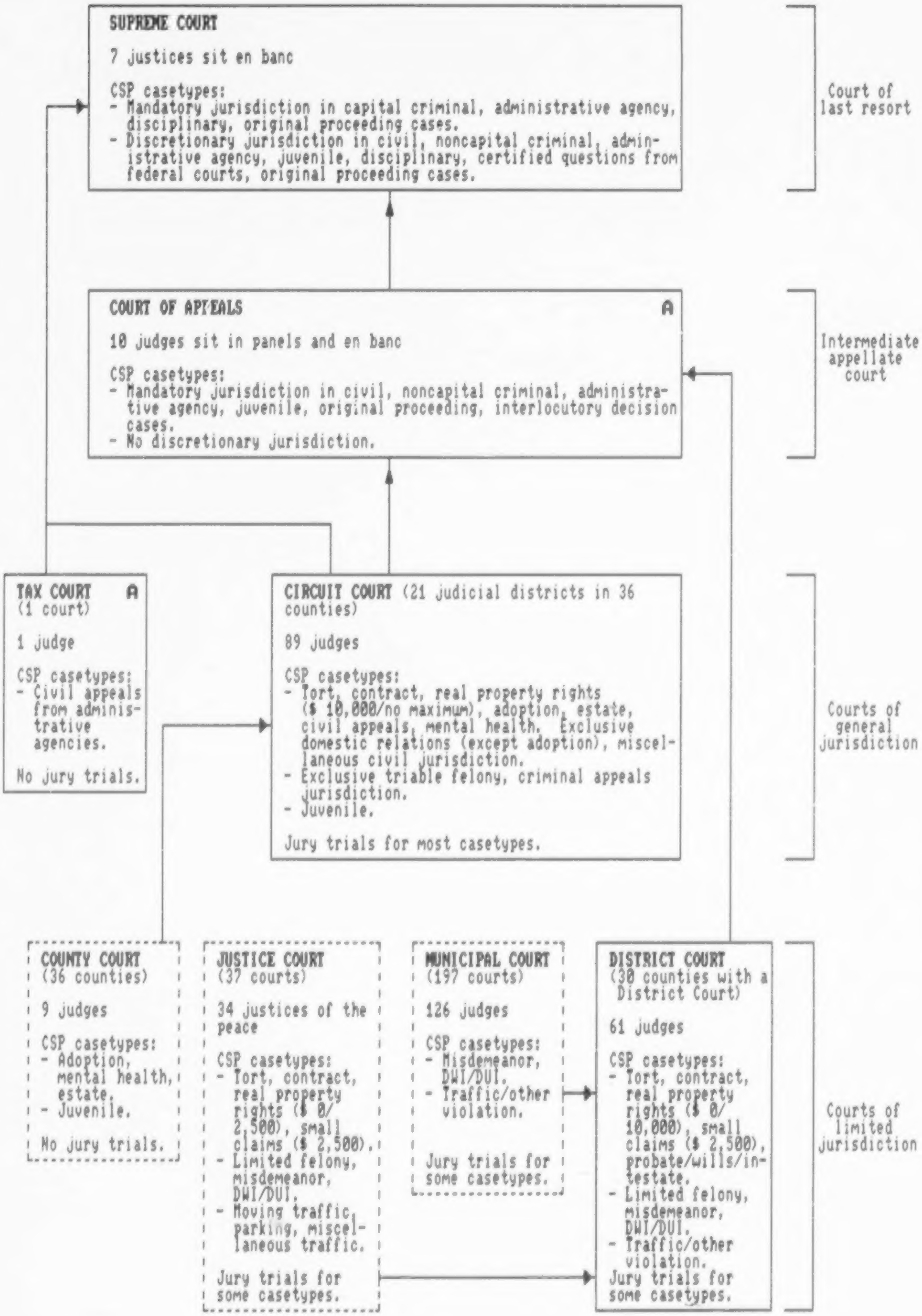
Jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

---- Indicates assignment of cases.

Oklahoma has a Workers' Compensation Court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.

OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

10 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

TAX COURT A
(1 court)

1 judge

CSP casetypes:
- Civil appeals from administrative agencies.

No jury trials.

CIRCUIT COURT (21 judicial districts in 36 counties)

89 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 10,000/no maximum), adoption, estate, civil appeals, mental health. Exclusive domestic relations (except adoption), miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials for most casetypes.

Courts of general jurisdiction

COUNTY COURT
(36 counties)

9 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Adoption, mental health, estate.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

JUSTICE COURT
(37 courts)

34 justices of the peace

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/2,500), small claims ($ 2,500).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials for some casetypes.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(197 courts)

126 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials for some casetypes.

DISTRICT COURT
(30 counties with a District Court)

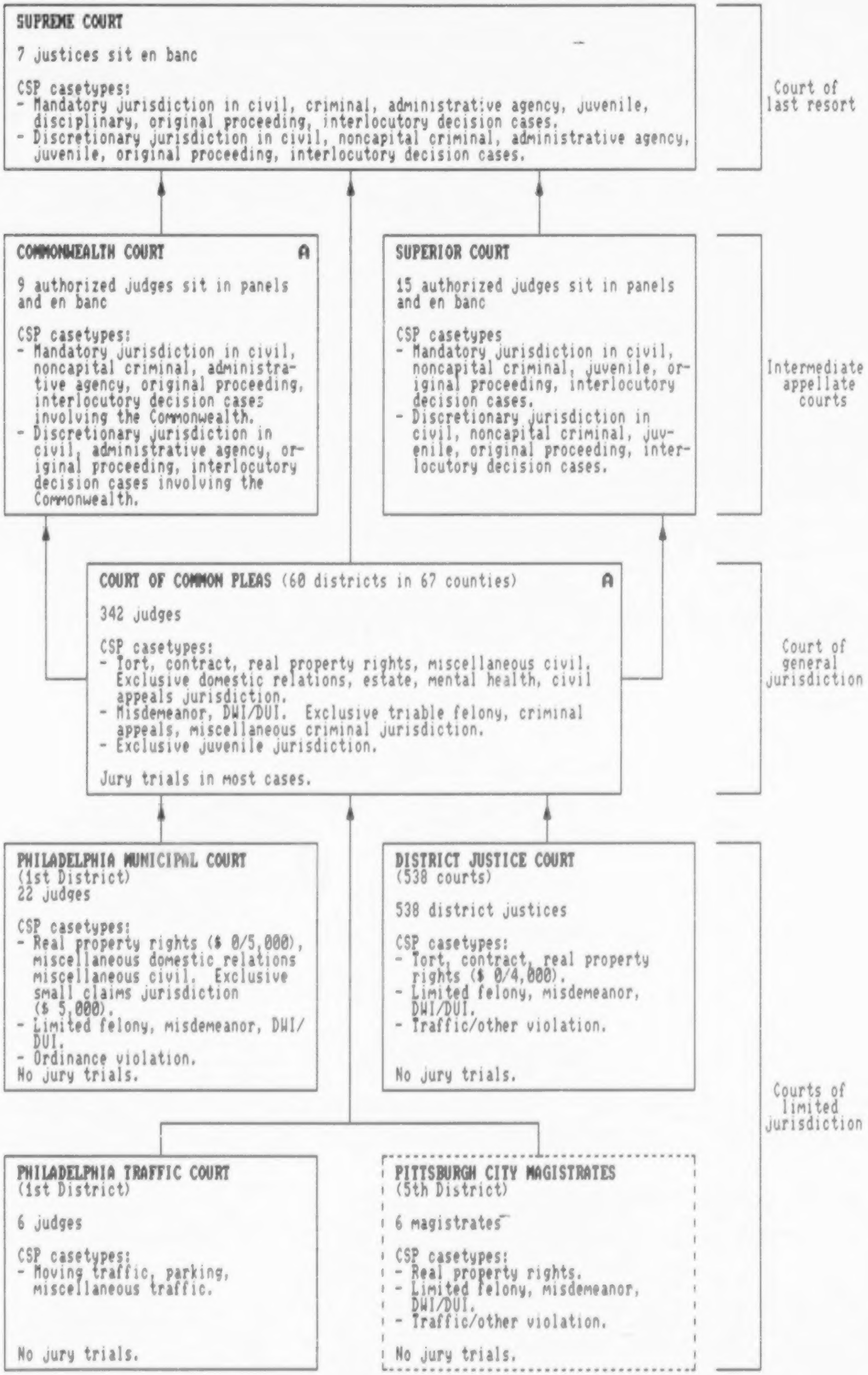
61 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), small claims ($ 2,500), probate/wills/intestate.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials for some casetypes.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

PENNSYLVANIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COMMONWEALTH COURT A

9 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the Commonwealth.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the Commonwealth.

SUPERIOR COURT

15 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate courts

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (60 districts in 67 counties) A

342 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT
(1st District)
22 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights ($ 0/5,000), miscellaneous domestic relations miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 5,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Ordinance violation.

No jury trials.

DISTRICT JUSTICE COURT
(538 courts)

538 district justices

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/4,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

PHILADELPHIA TRAFFIC COURT
(1st District)

6 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

No jury trials.

PITTSBURGH CITY MAGISTRATES
(5th District)

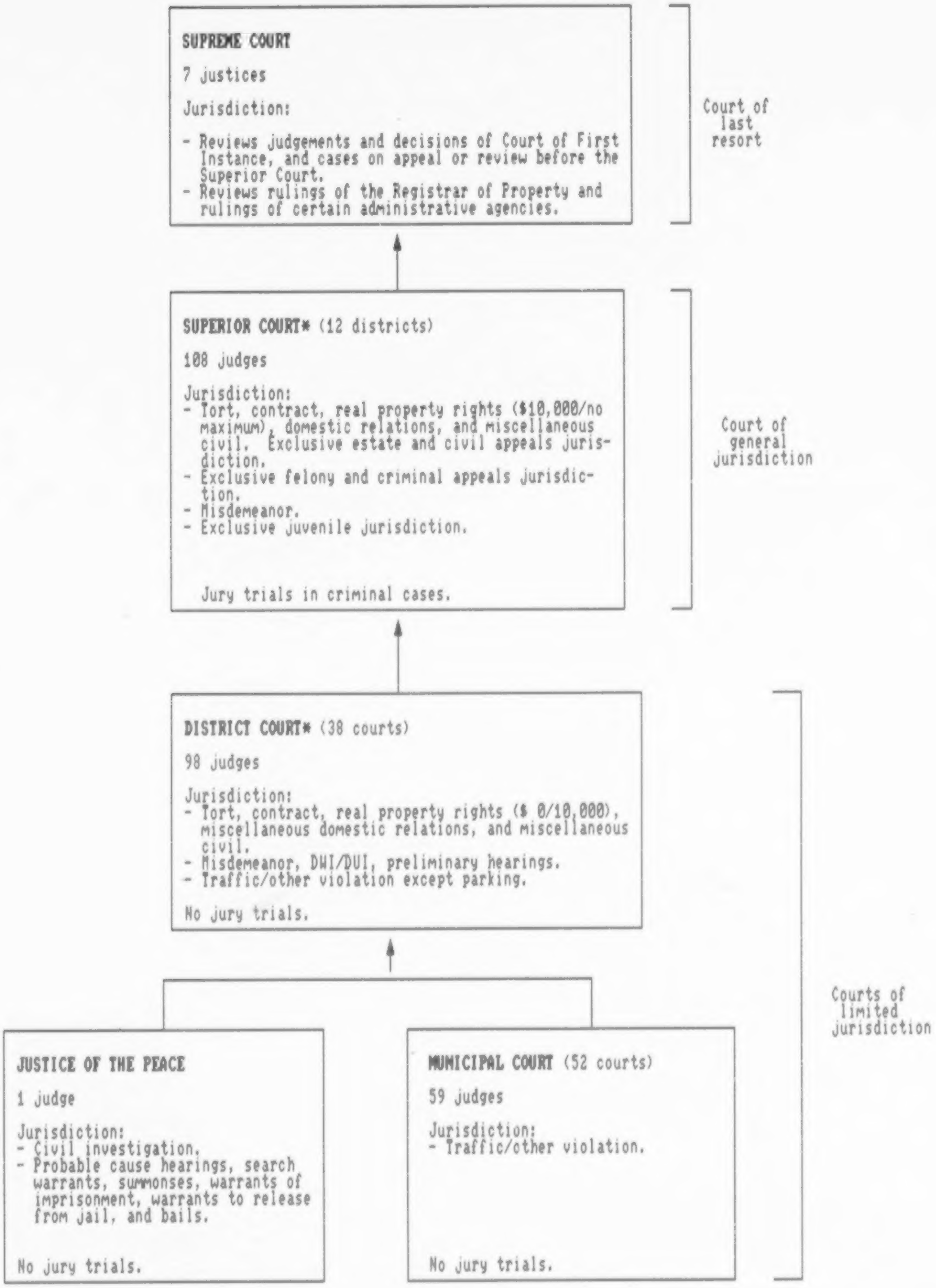
6 magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Real property rights.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices

Jurisdiction:

- Reviews judgements and decisions of Court of First Instance, and cases on appeal or review before the Superior Court.
- Reviews rulings of the Registrar of Property and rulings of certain administrative agencies.

Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT* (12 districts)

108 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($10,000/no maximum), domestic relations, and miscellaneous civil. Exclusive estate and civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive felony and criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in criminal cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT* (38 courts)

98 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), miscellaneous domestic relations, and miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic/other violation except parking.

No jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1 judge

Jurisdiction:
- Civil investigation.
- Probable cause hearings, search warrants, summonses, warrants of imprisonment, warrants to release from jail, and bails.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (52 courts)

59 judges

Jurisdiction:
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

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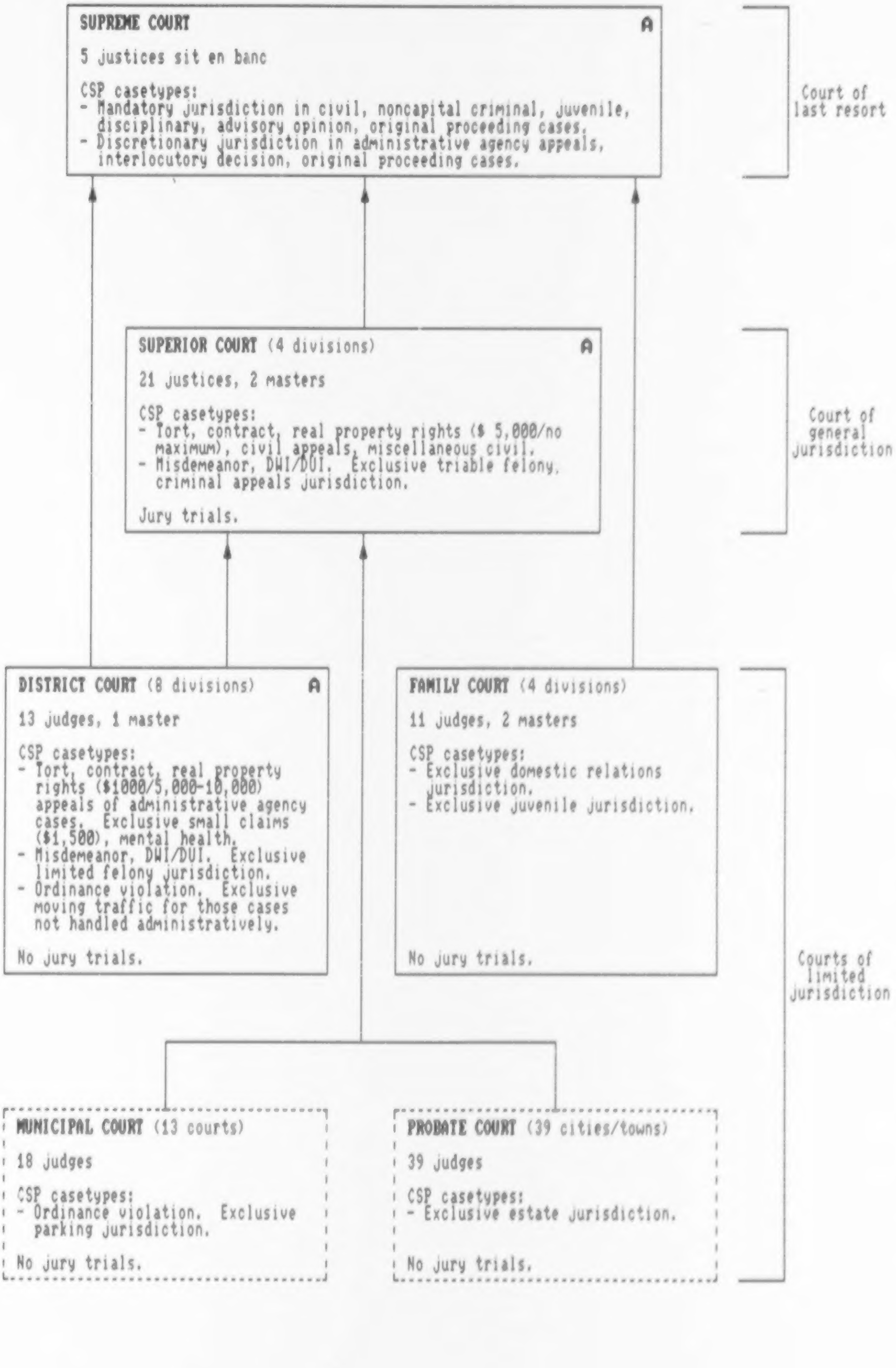
* The court of First Instance consists of two divisions: the Superior Court and the District Court. There is a work distribution between them that makes it possible to classify the first as a court of general jurisdiction and the other as a court of limited jurisdiction.

RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency appeals, interlocutory decision, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT (4 divisions) A

21 justices, 2 masters

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 5,000/no maximum), civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (8 divisions) A

13 judges, 1 master

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($1000/5,000-10,000) appeals of administrative agency cases. Exclusive small claims ($1,500), mental health.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Ordinance violation. Exclusive moving traffic for those cases not handled administratively.

No jury trials.

FAMILY COURT (4 divisions)

11 judges, 2 masters

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (13 courts)

18 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Ordinance violation. Exclusive parking jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (39 cities/towns)

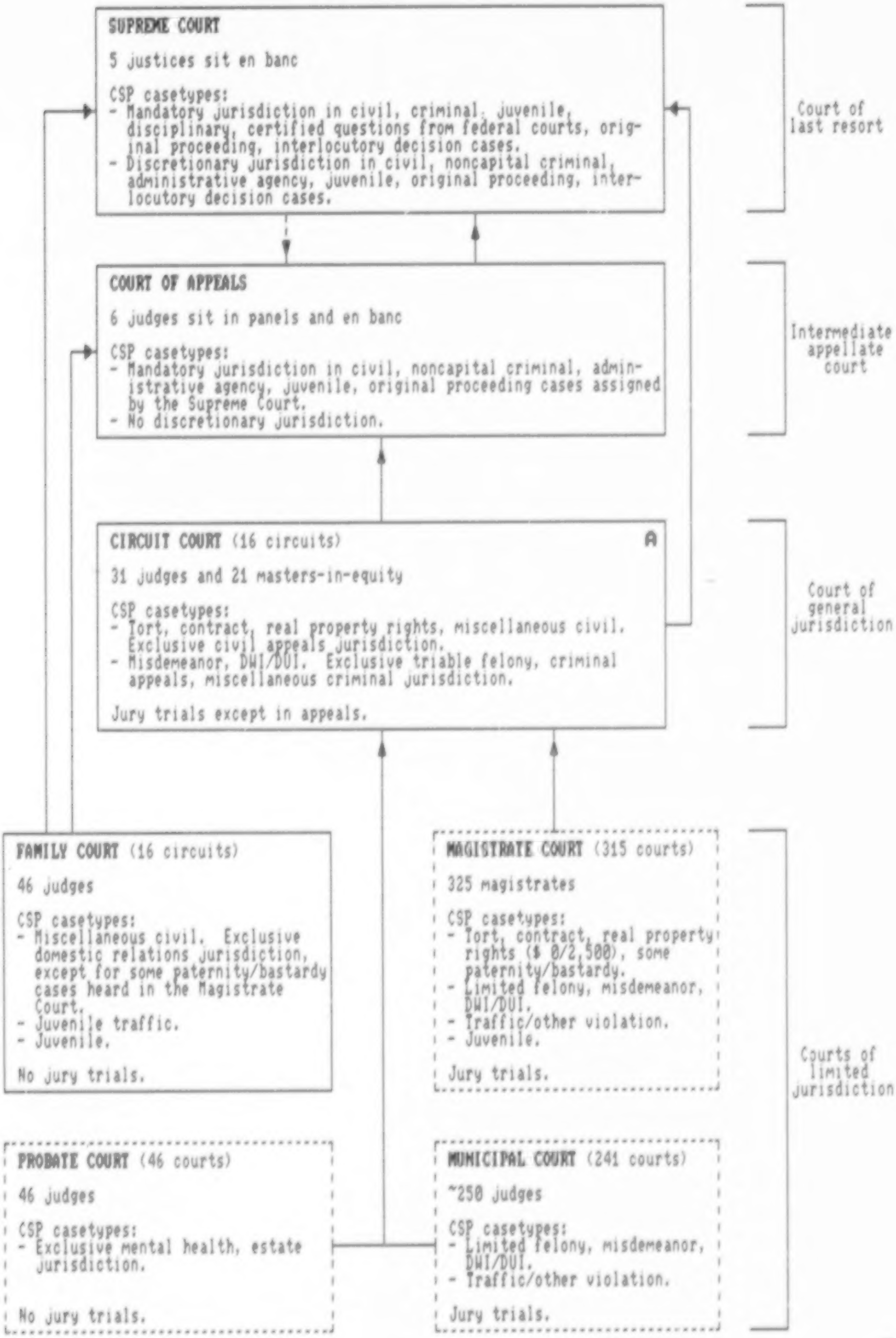
39 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS

6 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (16 circuits) A

31 judges and 21 masters-in-equity

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in appeals.

FAMILY COURT (16 circuits)

46 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction, except for some paternity/bastardy cases heard in the Magistrate Court.
- Juvenile traffic.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

MAGISTRATE COURT (315 courts)

325 magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/2,500), some paternity/bastardy.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (46 courts)

46 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive mental health, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (241 courts)

~250 judges

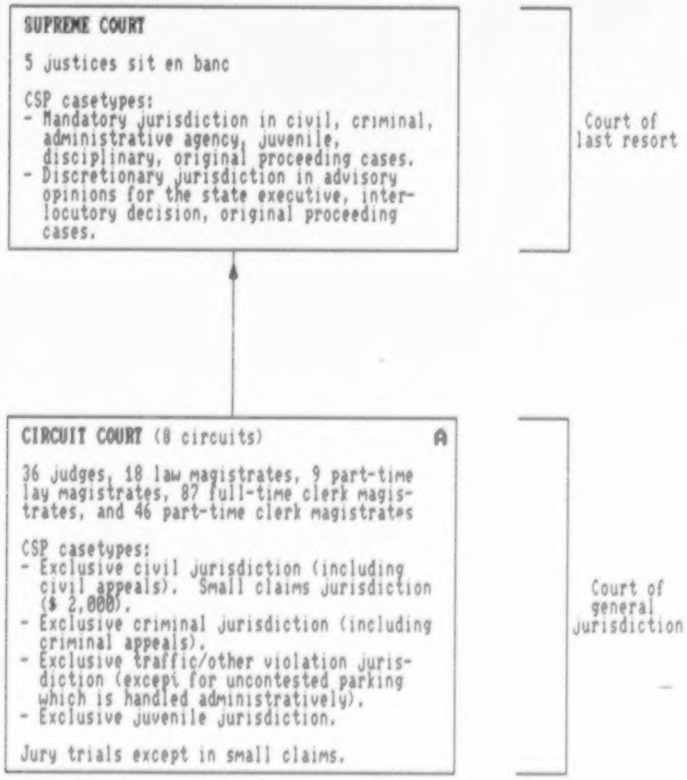
CSP casetypes:
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

---- Indicates assignment of cases.

SOUTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in advisory opinions for the state executive, interlocutory decision, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits) A

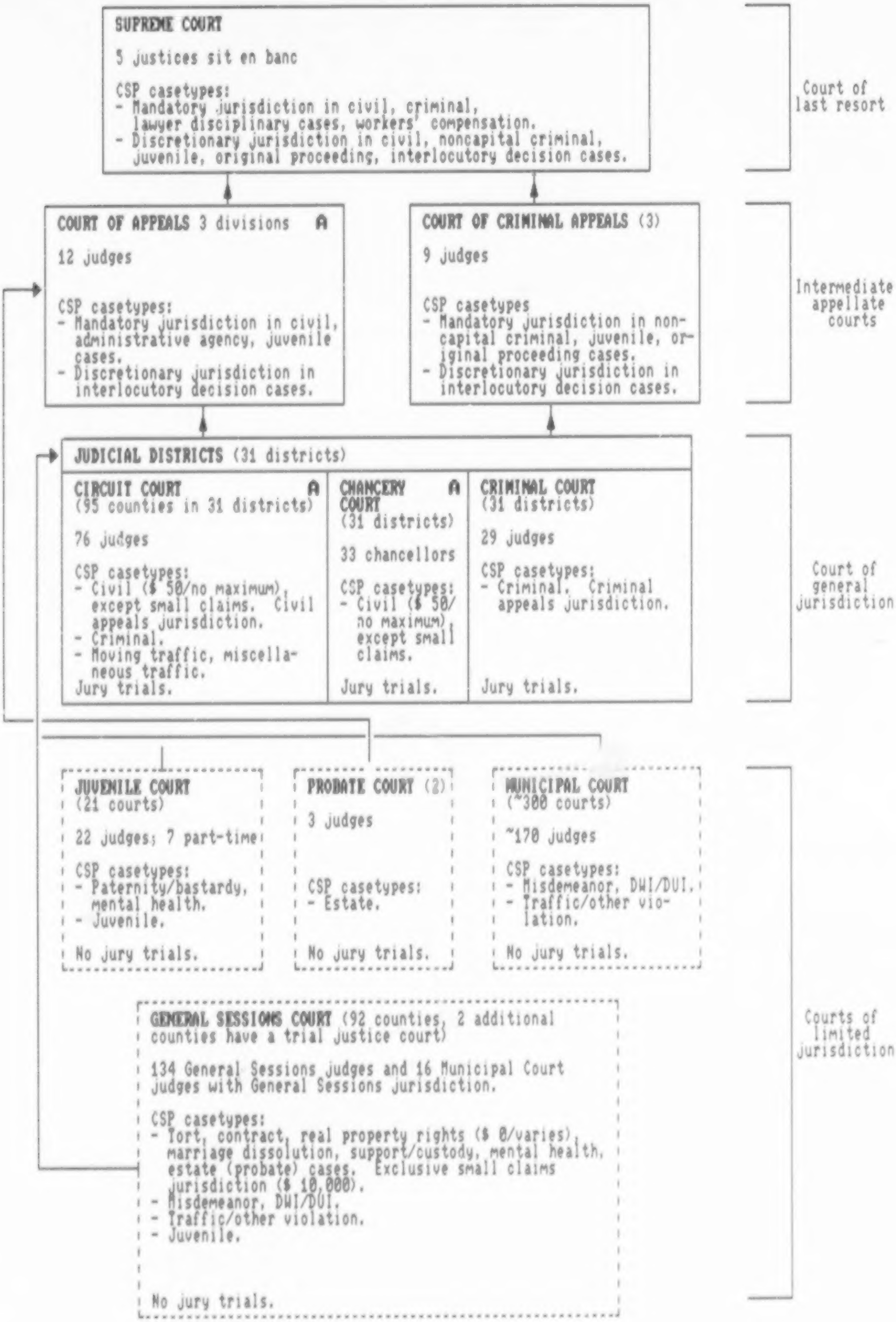
36 judges, 18 law magistrates, 9 part-time lay magistrates, 87 full-time clerk magistrates, and 46 part-time clerk magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction (except for uncontested parking which is handled administratively).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials except in small claims.

Court of general jurisdiction

TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, lawyer disciplinary cases, workers' compensation.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS 3 divisions **A**

12 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS (3)

9 judges

CSP casetypes
- Mandatory jurisdiction in noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate courts

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS (31 districts)

CIRCUIT COURT **A**
(95 counties in 31 districts)

76 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Civil ($ 50/no maximum), except small claims. Civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Criminal.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

CHANCERY COURT **A**
(31 districts)

33 chancellors

CSP casetypes:
- Civil ($ 50/no maximum) except small claims.

Jury trials.

CRIMINAL COURT
(31 districts)

29 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Criminal. Criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

JUVENILE COURT
(21 courts)

22 judges; 7 part-time

CSP casetypes:
- Paternity/bastardy, mental health.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (2)

3 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Estate.

No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(~300 courts)

~170 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT (92 counties, 2 additional counties have a trial justice court)

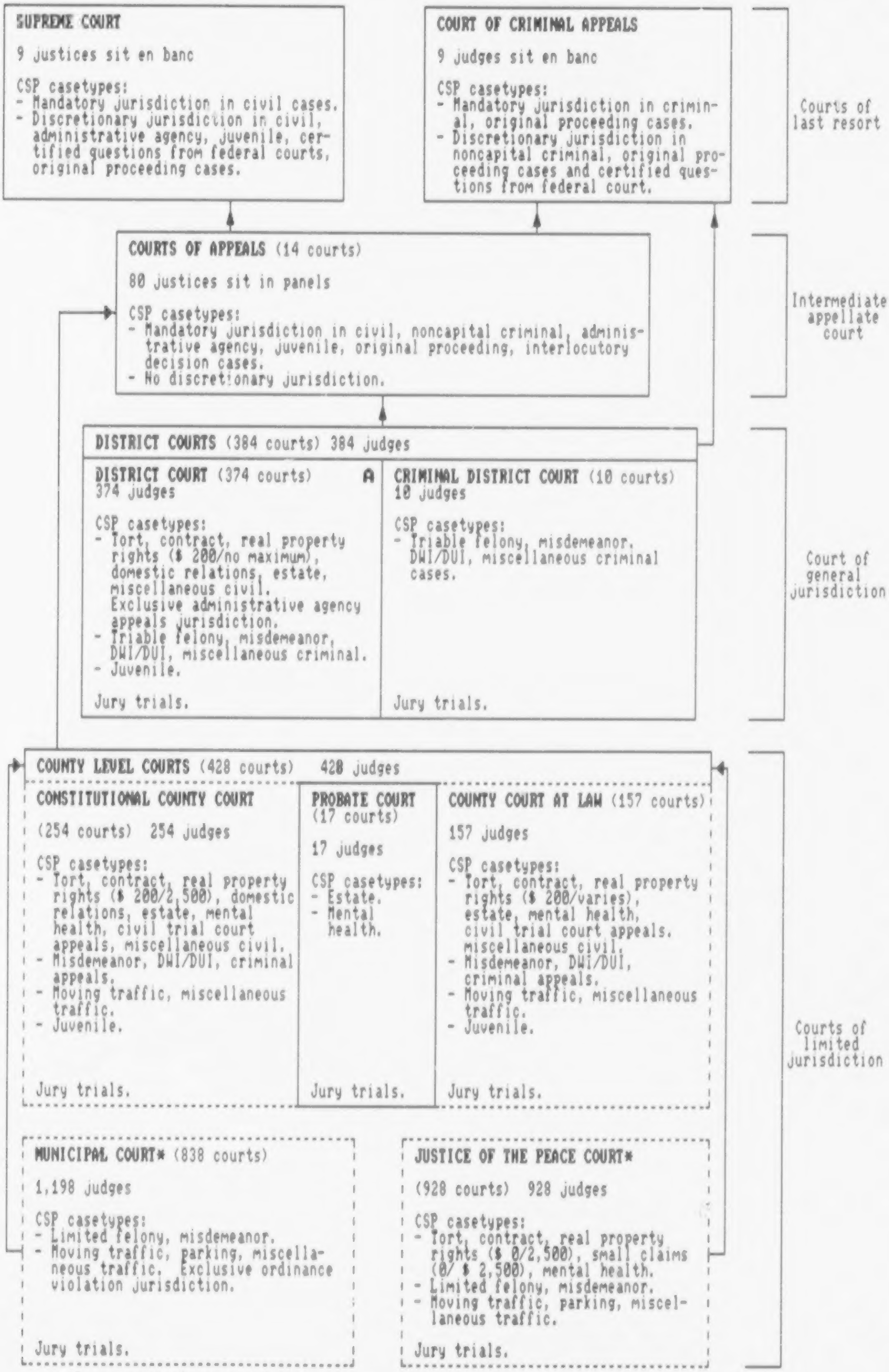
134 General Sessions judges and 16 Municipal Court judges with General Sessions jurisdiction.

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/varies), marriage dissolution, support/custody, mental health, estate (probate) cases. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 10,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

9 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

9 judges sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases and certified questions from federal court.

Courts of last resort

COURTS OF APPEALS (14 courts)

80 justices sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURTS (384 courts) 384 judges

DISTRICT COURT (374 courts) **A**
374 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 200/no maximum), domestic relations, estate, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive administrative agency appeals jurisdiction.
- Triable felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT (10 courts)
10 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Triable felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal cases.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

COUNTY LEVEL COURTS (428 courts) 428 judges

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURT

(254 courts) 254 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 200/2,500), domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
(17 courts)

17 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Estate.
- Mental health.

Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW (157 courts)

157 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 200/varies), estate, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT* (838 courts)

1,198 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Limited felony, misdemeanor.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT*

(928 courts) 928 judges

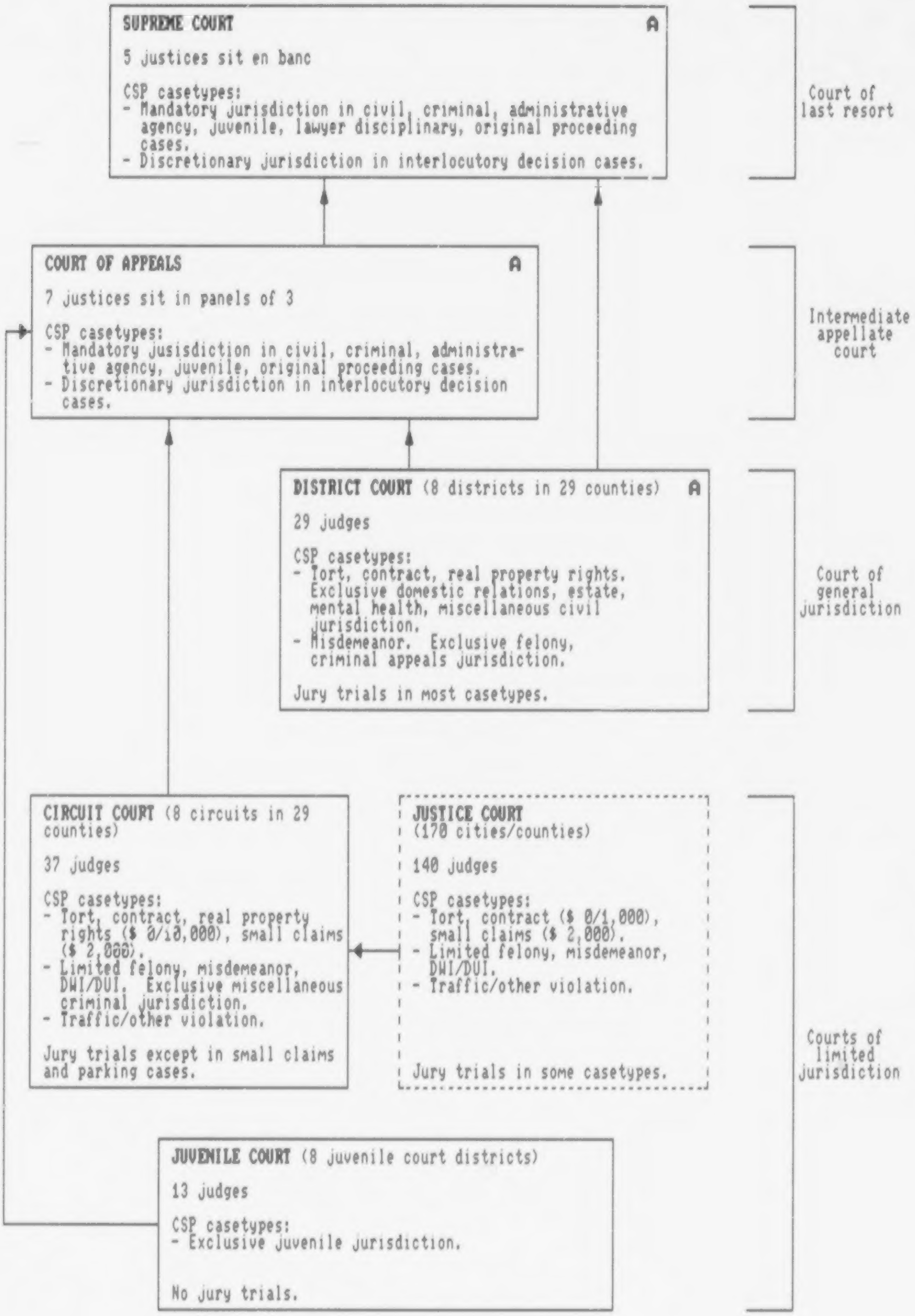
CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/2,500), small claims (0/ $ 2,500), mental health.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

* Some Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts may appeal to the District Court.

UTAH COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

7 justices sit in panels of 3

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jusisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (8 districts in 29 counties) A

29 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most casetypes.

Court of general jurisdiction

CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits in 29 counties)

37 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/10,000), small claims ($ 2,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except in small claims and parking cases.

JUSTICE COURT
(170 cities/counties)

140 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/1,000), small claims ($ 2,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials in some casetypes.

JUVENILE COURT (8 juvenile court districts)

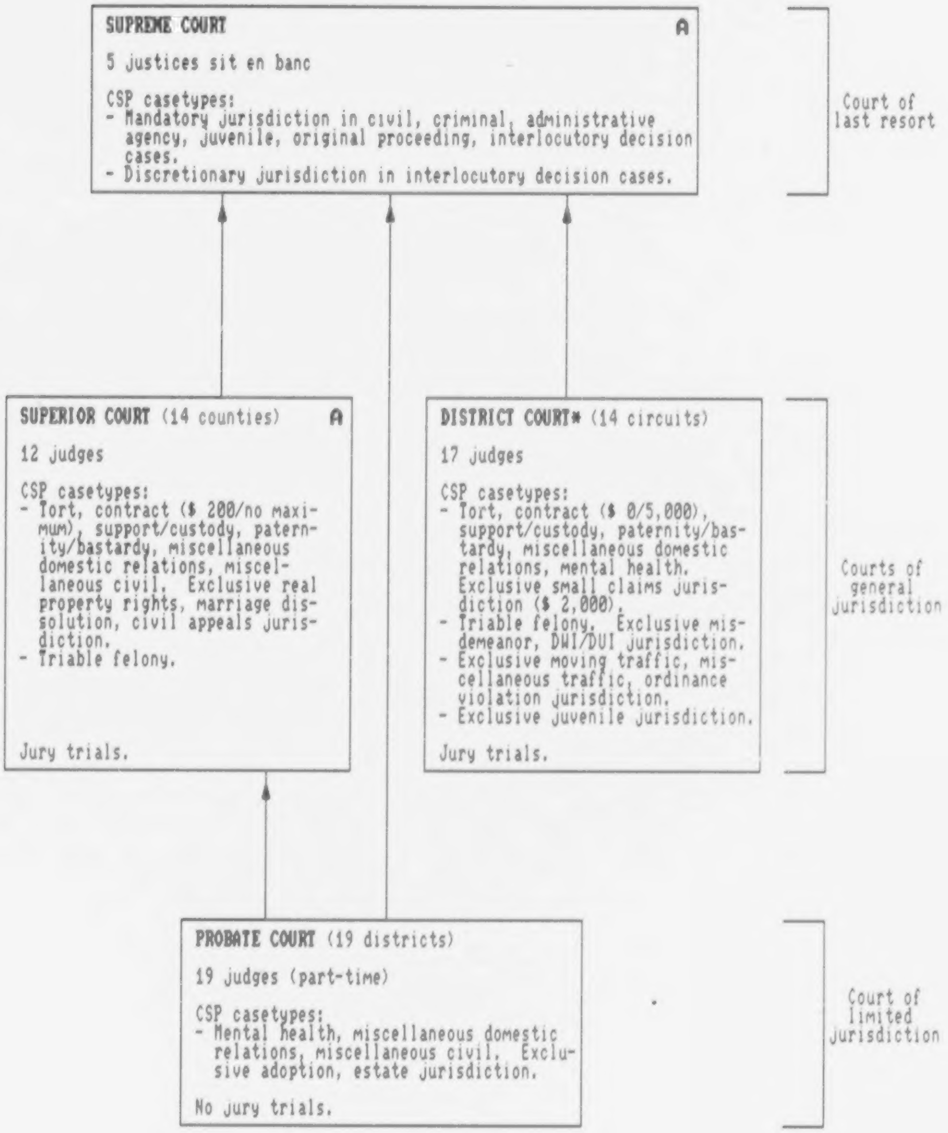
13 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

VERMONT COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT (14 counties) A

12 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 200/no maximum), support/custody, paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous domestic relations, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive real property rights, marriage dissolution, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Triable felony.

Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT* (14 circuits)

17 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/5,000), support/custody, paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Triable felony. Exclusive misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
- Exclusive moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Courts of general jurisdiction

PROBATE COURT (19 districts)

19 judges (part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Mental health, miscellaneous domestic relations, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

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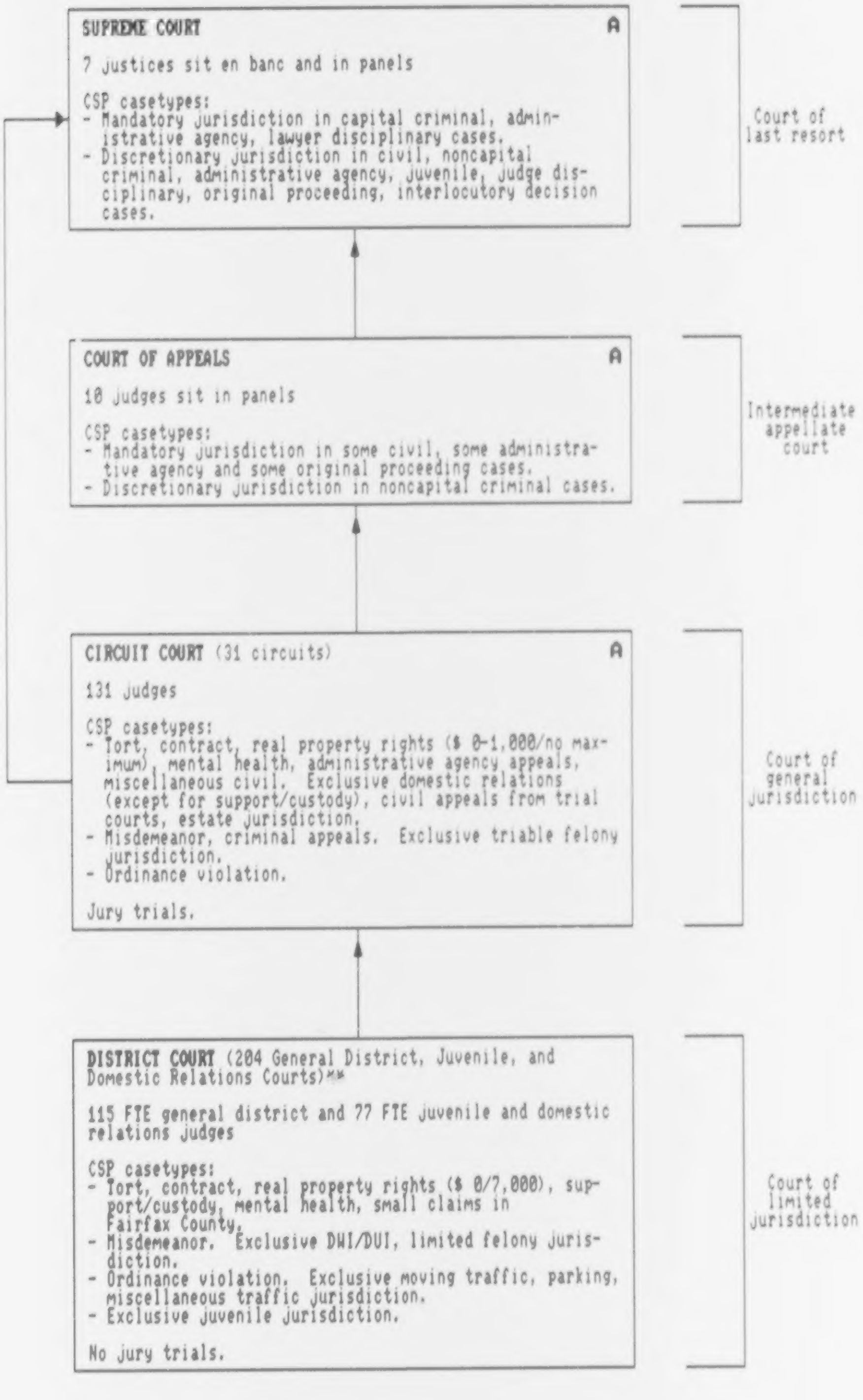
* The District Court, although created as a court of limited jurisdiction, has steadily increased its scope to include almost all criminal matters. In 1983, the District Court was granted jurisdiction over all criminal cases, and has become the court of general jurisdiction for most criminal matters. A small number of appeals go to the Superior Court.

VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

7 justices sit en banc and in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, administrative agency, lawyer disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, judge disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS A

10 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in some civil, some administrative agency and some original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in noncapital criminal cases.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT (31 circuits) A

131 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0-1,000/no maximum), mental health, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations (except for support/custody), civil appeals from trial courts, estate jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, criminal appeals. Exclusive triable felony jurisdiction.
- Ordinance violation.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

DISTRICT COURT (204 General District, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations Courts)**

115 FTE general district and 77 FTE juvenile and domestic relations judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/7,000), support/custody, mental health, small claims in Fairfax County.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive DWI/DUI, limited felony jurisdiction.
- Ordinance violation. Exclusive moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

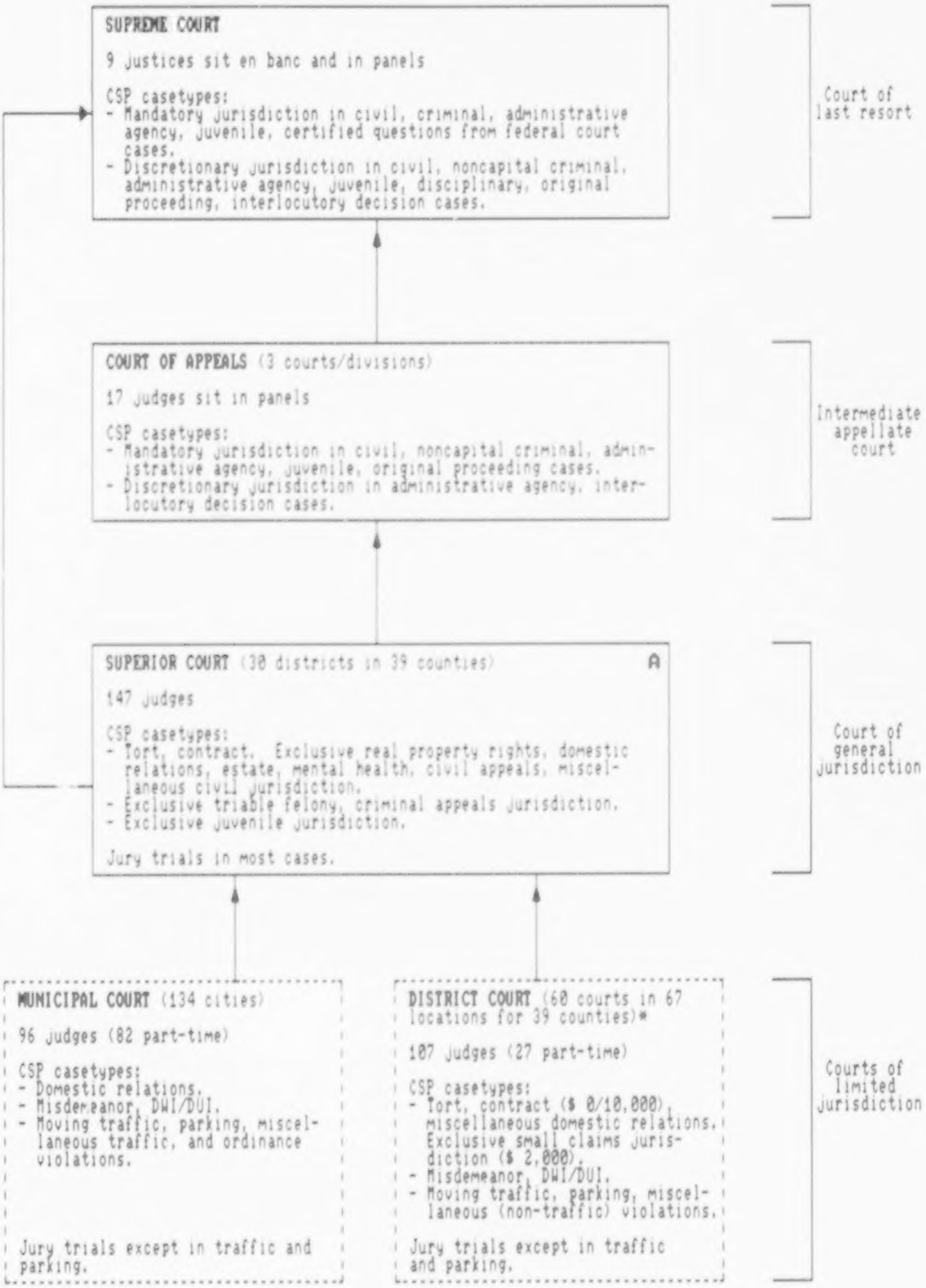
No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

* A Family Court Pilot Project authorized by legislation passed in the 1989 session of the General Assembly became operational on January 2, 1990.

** The District Court is referred to as the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court when hearing juvenile and domestic relations cases, and as the General District Court for the balance of the cases.

WASHINGTON COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

9 justices sit en banc and in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal court cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (3 courts/divisions)

17 judges sit in panels

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (30 districts in 39 counties) A

147 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract. Exclusive real property rights, domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (134 cities)

96 judges (82 part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic, and ordinance violations.

Jury trials except in traffic and parking.

DISTRICT COURT (60 courts in 67 locations for 39 counties)*

107 judges (27 part-time)

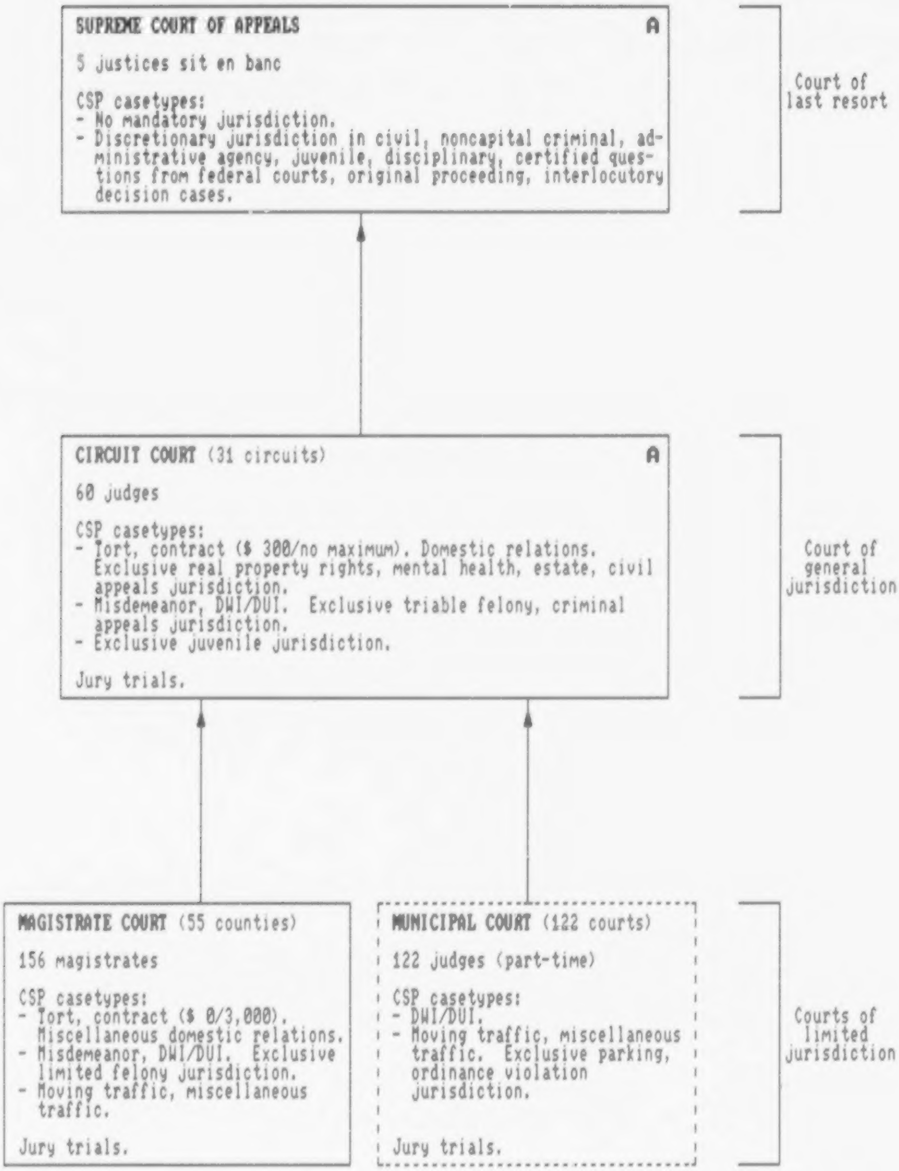
CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/10,000), miscellaneous domestic relations. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous (non-traffic) violations.

Jury trials except in traffic and parking.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
Courts of limited jurisdiction

* District Court provides services to municipalities that do not have a Municipal Court.

WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- No mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

CIRCUIT COURT (31 circuits) A

60 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 300/no maximum). Domestic relations. Exclusive real property rights, mental health, estate, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Court of general jurisdiction

MAGISTRATE COURT (55 counties)

156 magistrates

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract ($ 0/3,000). Miscellaneous domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive limited felony jurisdiction.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (122 courts)

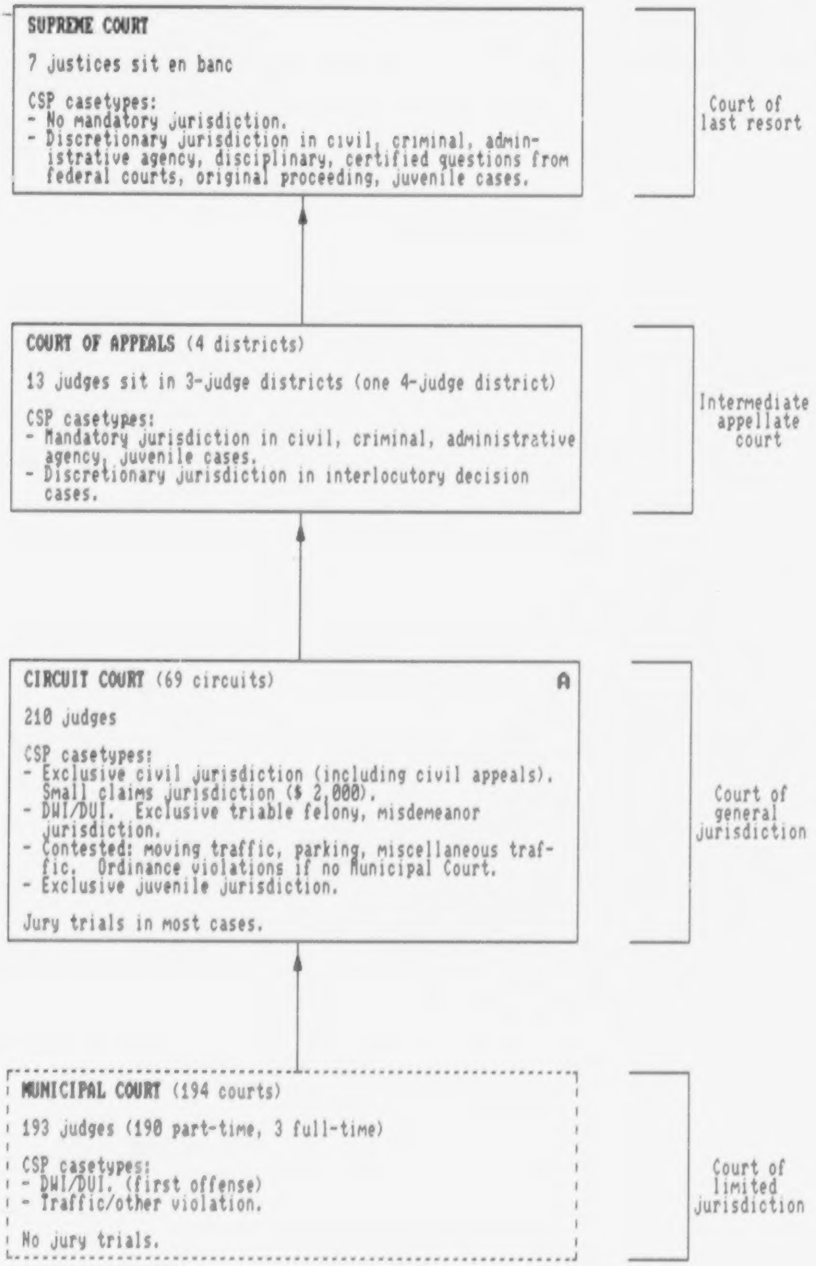
122 judges (part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive parking, ordinance violation jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Courts of limited jurisdiction

WISCONSIN COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- No mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, juvenile cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS (4 districts)

13 judges sit in 3-judge districts (one 4-judge district)

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate appellate court

CIRCUIT COURT (69 circuits) A

210 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($ 2,000).
- DWI/DUI. Exclusive triable felony, misdemeanor jurisdiction.
- Contested: moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Ordinance violations if no Municipal Court.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

Court of general jurisdiction

MUNICIPAL COURT (194 courts)

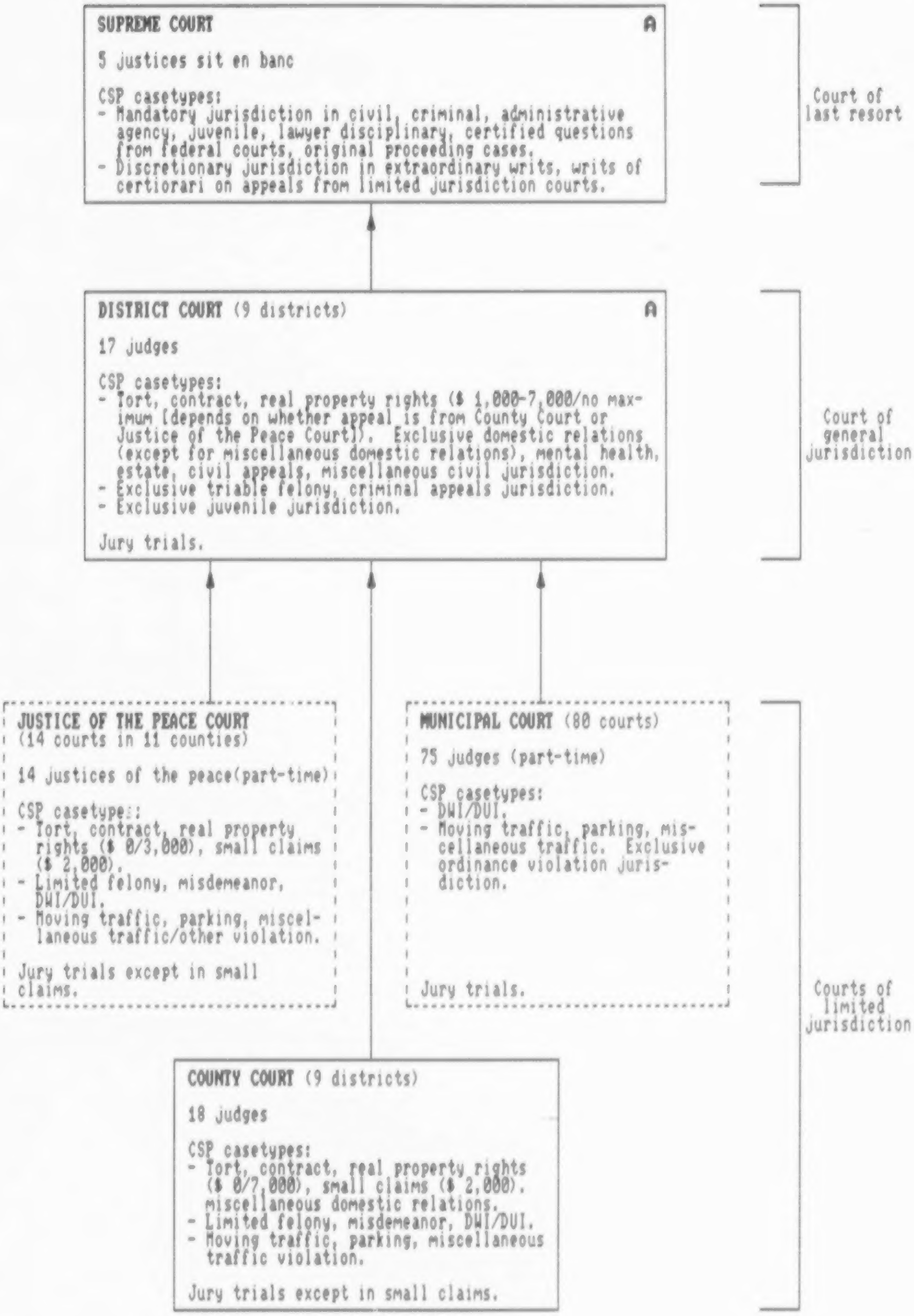
193 judges (190 part-time, 3 full-time)

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI. (first offense)
- Traffic/other violation.

No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction

WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1990



SUPREME COURT A

5 justices sit en banc

CSP casetypes:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in extraordinary writs, writs of certiorari on appeals from limited jurisdiction courts.

DISTRICT COURT (9 districts) A

17 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 1,000-7,000/no maximum [depends on whether appeal is from County Court or Justice of the Peace Court]). Exclusive domestic relations (except for miscellaneous domestic relations), mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive triable felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
(14 courts in 11 counties)

14 justices of the peace(part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/3,000), small claims ($ 2,000).
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic/other violation.

Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (80 courts)

75 judges (part-time)

CSP casetypes:
- DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (9 districts)

18 judges

CSP casetypes:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($ 0/7,000), small claims ($ 2,000). miscellaneous domestic relations.
- Limited felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic violation.

Jury trials except in small claims.

PART 5

JURISDICTION AND STATE COURT REPORTING PRACTICES

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FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1990

	Reporting periods			
State	January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1990	July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990	September 1, 1989 to August 31, 1990	October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1990
Alabama	X Municipal Court			X
Alaska		X		
Arizona		X		
Arkansas		X		
California		X		
Colorado		X		
Connecticut	X Probate Court	X		
Delaware		X		
District of Columbia	X			
Florida	X			
Georgia	X Court of Appeals Superior Court State Court Juvenile Court Probate Court	X Magistrate Court	X Supreme Court (Aug. 1, 1988 - July 31, 1989)	
Hawaii	X			
Idaho	X			
Illinois	X			
Indiana	X			
Iowa	X			
Kansas		X		
Kentucky		X		
Louisiana	X			
Maine		X		
Maryland		X		
Massachusetts		X Trial Court		Supreme Judicial Court Appeals Court
Michigan	X Court of Appeals Trial Courts	X Supreme Court		
Minnesota	X			
Mississippi	X			
Missouri		X		
Montana	X Supreme Court District Court	X City Court Justice of the Peace Court Municipal Court		
Nebraska	X District Court County Court Separate Juvenile	Workers' Compensation Court		X Supreme Court
Nevada	X Supreme Court District Court			
New Hampshire	X Supreme Court Superior Court District Court Municipal Court	X Probate Court		

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FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1990. (continued)

	Reporting periods			
State	January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1990	July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990	September 1, 1989 to August 31, 1990	October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1990
New Jersey		X		
New Mexico		X		
New York	X			
North Carolina		X		
North Dakota	X			
Ohio	X			
Oklahoma		X		
Oregon	X			
Pennsylvania	X			
Puerto Rico		X		
Rhode Island	X Trial Courts			X Supreme Court
South Carolina	X			
South Dakota		X		
Tennessee		X		
Texas			X	
Utah	X Supreme Court	X Trial Courts		
Vermont		X		
Virginia		X		
Washington	X			
West Virginia	X			
Wisconsin	X			
Wyoming	X			

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, an "X" means that all of the trial and appellate courts in that state report data for the time period indicated by the column.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1990 State Trial and Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
ALABAMA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
ALASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
ARIZONA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X-CR	0	0	X *	X	0	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X-CR *	X *	0	X *	X (except industrial cases & civil petition or special action)	X (only industrial cases & civil petition for special action)	0	X	0
ARKANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
CALIFORNIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X *	X	0	0	X (death penalty only)	COLR (if petition for review of IAC)	X	0	0
Courts of Appeal	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
COLORADO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
CONNECTICUT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if motion to open)	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if motion to open or if remand by COLR)	0	0
DELAWARE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
FLORIDA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	IAC	X	0	0
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	(Adm. Agy. and Workers Comp.)	X	0	0
GEORGIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	X	0	X (notice of appeal)	0	0	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
HAWAII:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X (original proceeding)	0	0	X
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (when assigned by COLR)	0	0	0	0	X
IDAHO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	X (appeal from trial court)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	(when assigned by COLR)	0	0	0	X	0
ILLINOIS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X		
INDIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X (any first filing, notice, record, brief or motion)	X (only death penalty and/or sentence over 10 years)	X COLR (if petition for transfer from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (any first filing)	X (praecipe)	0	0	0	X

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Barely	Yes, or frequently as new case
IOWA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X (if appeal from trial court)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER (if appeal from trial court)	X	0	X	0	0
KANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
KENTUCKY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X	X (COLR if review is sought from IAC)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	X	0	X	0	X	0	0
LOUISIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MAINE:										
Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if remanded)	0	X (if new appeal)
MARYLAND:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (IAC if appeal from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
MASSACHUSETTS:										
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Appeals Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X (if originally dismissed as premature)	0

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
MICHIGAN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded w/jurisdiction retained)	0 X	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
MINNESOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MISSISSIPPI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
MISSOURI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
MONTANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (notice plus any other filing: fee, record, motion)	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NEBRASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	
NEVADA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW HAMPSHIRE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded & jurisdiction retained)	0	X
NEW JERSEY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X (COLR if direct appeal, otherwise with IAC)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
NEW MEXICO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW YORK:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if remit for specific issues)	0	X (if remand for new trial)
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X (if petition to rehear)	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if reconsidering dismissal)	X	0
NORTH DAKOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
OHIO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	IAC	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X*	0	X	0	0
OKLAHOMA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X*	0	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0	X (notice plus transcript)	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	COLR	X*	0	X*
OREGON:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
PENNSYLVANIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (direct appeal only)	0	0	X (discretionary certiorari granted)	X *	X *	X (if reinstated to enforce order)	X (if new appeal)	0
Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Commonwealth Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	X	0 (ADM. AGY.)	0	X
PUERTO RICO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	CR	CV	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY	X	X
RHODE ISLAND:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
SOUTH CAROLINA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	0	X	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
TENNESSEE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Criminal Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
TEXAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0	0	0	0 (any first filing)	X	X (Court of Crim. Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X (Civil only)	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
UTAH:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X *	0	0	0	X (court from which appealed)	X (ADM. AGY.)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X	0

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
State/Court name:	Court type	Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Trial court	Appellate court	No	Barely	Yes, or frequently as new case
VERMONT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if dismissed & reinstated)	0	X (if after final decision or if statistical period has ended)
VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
WASHINGTON:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
WEST VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (Counted as new filings as of 8/86)	0	0
WISCONSIN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	(When accepted by court)	0	X	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
WYOMING:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X

ADM. AGY. = Administrative agency cases only.
CR = Criminal cases only.
CV = Civil cases only.
DP = Death penalty cases only.
COLR = Court of last resort.
IAC = Intermediate appellate court.

FOOTNOTES*

Arizona—Supreme Court: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed.

Arizona—Court of Appeals: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed. For juvenile/industrial/habeas corpus cases, a case is counted at receipt of notice or at receipt of the trial record.

California—Supreme Court: Cases are counted at the notice of appeal for discretionary review cases from the IAC.

Kansas—Cases are counted at the docketing, which occurs 21 days after a notice of appeal is filed in the trial court.

Kentucky—Cases are counted at either the filing of the brief or request for intermediate relief.

Ohio—Court of Appeals: The clerk of the trial court is also the clerk of the Court of Appeals.

Oklahoma—The notice of appeal refers to the petition in error. The courts do not count reinstated cases as new filings, but do count any subsequent appeal of an earlier decided case as a new filing.

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court: Mandatory cases are filed with the trial court, and discretionary cases are filed with the appellate court.

Utah—Supreme Court: Mandatory appeals are no longer in effect as of 1/1/86; an intermediate court of appeals was established on 1/1/87.

Source: State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified for 1990 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990

				Small claims			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
ALABAMA:							
Circuit Court	G	$1,500/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	$1,500/ $5,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Optional
ALASKA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$50,000	$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
ARIZONA:							
Superior Court	G	$500/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Justice of the Peace Court	L	—	0/ $2,500	$1,000	No	Yes	No
ARKANSAS:							
Circuit Court	G	$100/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Court of Common Pleas	L	—	0/ $1,000 (contract only)	—	—	—	—
Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $3,000 (contract and real property)	$300	No	Yes	No
City Court, Police Court	L	—	0/ $300 (contract and real property)	—	—	—	—
CALIFORNIA:							
Superior Court	G	$25,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Municipal Court	L	—	0/$25,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	—	0/$25,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
COLORADO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Water Court	G	0/No maximum (only real property)	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	0/ $5,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
CONNECTICUT:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
DELAWARE:							
Court of Chancery	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Court of Common Pleas	L	—	0/$15,000	—	—	—	—
Justice of the Peace Court	L	—	0/ $5,000	$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Alderman's Court	L	—		$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:							
Superior Court	G	$2,001/No maximum (no minimum for real property)	—	$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
FLORIDA:							
Circuit Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	$2,500/ $10,000	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims			
				Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
GEORGIA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	No max	Yes	No	Yes
State Court	L	0/No maximum (No real property)	—	No max	Yes	No	Yes
Civil Court	L	—	0/ $7,500	$7,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
(Bibb & Richmond counties only)	L		0/ 25,000	$25,000			
Magistrate Court	L	—	0/ $5,000 (No real property)	$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court (Columbus/Muscogee county only)	L	—	0/ $7,500	$7,500	No	Yes	Yes
HAWAII:							
Circuit Court	G	$5,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000 (No maximum in summary possession or ejectment)	$2,500 (Except in residential security deposit cases)	No	Yes	Yes
IDAHO:							
District Court:	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
(Magistrates Division)	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
ILLINOIS:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
INDIANA:							
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
County Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	—	0/$20,000	—	—	—	—
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	—	—	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	—	0/ $500-$2,500 (No real property)	—	—	—	—
IOWA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
KANSAS:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$1,000	No	Yes	No
KENTUCKY:							
Circuit Court	G	$4,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/ $4,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
LOUISIANA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
City Court, Parish Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	—	0/ $1,200	$1,200	No	Yes	Yes
MAINE:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$30,000	$1,400	No	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

				Small claims			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
MARYLAND:							
Circuit Court	G	$2,500/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	0/No maximum (real property)	$2,500/$10,000 (tort, contract)	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
MASSACHUSETTS:							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:							
Superior Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	—	$1,500	No	No	Yes
District Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	—	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	—	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
MICHIGAN:							
Circuit Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $1,500	$1,500	No	Yes	No
MINNESOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$4,000	No	Yes	Yes
MISSISSIPPI:							
Circuit Court	G	$200/No maximum					
County Court	L	0/$25,000					
Justice Court	L	0/$1,000					
MISSOURI:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
(Associate Division)	L	—	0/$15,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
MONTANA:							
District Court	G	$50/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Justice of the Peace Court and Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $3,500	$2,500	No	Yes	No
City Court	L	—	0/ $300	—	—	—	—
NEBRASKA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$1,800	No	Yes	No
NEVADA:							
District Court	G	$5,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Justice Court	L	—	0/ $5,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $2,500	—	—	—	—
NEW HAMPSHIRE:							
Superior Court	G	$1,500/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $2,500 (only landlord-tenant, and small claims)	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
NEW JERSEY:							
Superior Court (Law Division and Chancery Division)	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
(Law Division, Special Civil Part)	L	—	0/ $5,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims			
				Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
NEW MEXICO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Magistrate Court	L	—	0/ $5,000	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	—	0/ $5,000	—	—	—	—
NEW YORK:							
Supreme Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	G	—	0/$25,000	—	—	—	—
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	—	0/$25,000	$2,000	—	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	—	0/$15,000	$2,000	—	Yes	Yes
District Court	L	—	0/$15,000	$2,000	—	Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	—	0/ $3,000	$2,000	—	Yes	Yes
NORTH CAROLINA:							
Superior Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
NORTH DAKOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$3,000	No	Yes	Varies
OHIO:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	$500/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	0/ $3,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
OKLAHOMA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$3,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
OREGON:							
Circuit Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	—	0/ $2,500	$2,500	No	Yes	No
PENNSYLVANIA:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Justice Court	L	—	0/ $4,000	—	—	—	—
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	—	0/ $5,000 (only real property)	$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court	L	—	0/No maximum (only real property)	—	—	—	—
PUERTO RICO:							
Superior Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000	—	—	—	—
RHODE ISLAND:							
Superior Court	G	$5,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	$1,000/ $5,000-$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims			
				Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
SOUTH CAROLINA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Magistrate Court	L	—	0/ $2,500 (no max. in landlord-tenant)	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
SOUTH DAKOTA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
TENNESSEE:							
Circuit Court, Chancery Court	G	$50/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
General Sessions Court	L	0/No maximum (Forcible entry, detainer, and in actions to recover personal property	0/$15,000(All civil actions in counties with population under 700,000) 0/$25,000 (All civil actions in counties with population over 700,000)	$10,000	No	Yes	Yes
TEXAS:							
District Court	G	$200/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court	L	—	$200/varies	—	—	—	—
Justice of the Peace Court	L	—	0/ $2,500	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
UTAH:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Circuit Court	L	—	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice Court	L	—		$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
VERMONT:							
Superior Court	G	$200/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	G	—	0/ $5,000	$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	0-$1,000/No maximum 0/No maximum(real property)	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/ $7,000	—	—	—	—
WASHINGTON:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
District Court	L	—	0/$10,000 (No real property)	$2,000	No	Yes	No
WEST VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	$300/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
Magistrate Court	L	—	0/ $3,000 (No real property)	—	—	—	—
WISCONSIN:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	—	$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
WYOMING:							
District Court	G	$1,000-$7,000/No maximum	—	—	—	—	—
County Court	L	—	0/ $7,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	—	0/ $3,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.
— = Information not available.

Source: Data were gathered from the State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
ALABAMA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/Indictment		X			X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				(No data reported)	
ALASKA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment	X		multiple charges		X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X		multiple counts		X	
ARIZONA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*		
ARKANSAS:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
City Court, Police Ct.	L	Complaint	X		X			
CALIFORNIA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
COLORADO:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X					X
County Court	L	Complaint/summons	X					X
CONNECTICUT:								
Superior Court	G	Information	X				(Varies among local police departments)	
DELAWARE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
Family Court	L	Petition	X				X	
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Court of Common Pleas	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	Complaint	X		X			
Alderman's Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:								
Superior Court	G	Complaint/information/ indictment	X				X	
FLORIDA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				(Prosecutor decides)	
County Court	L	Complaint	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
GEORGIA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment/accusation		X			X	
State Court	L	Accusation/citation		X			X	
Magistrate Court	L	Accusation/citation	X				X	
Probate Court	L	Accusation/citation	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
Civil Court	L	No data reported						
County Recorder's Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Courts and the City Court of Atlanta	L	No data reported						
HAWAII:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment	X				X	(Most serious charge)
District Court	L	First appearance/information	X		X			
IDAHO:								
District Court	G	Information	X					X
(Magistrates Division)	L	Complaint	X					X
ILLINOIS:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment		X			X	
INDIANA:								
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(may not be consistent)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
City Court and Town Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
IOWA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
KANSAS:								
District Court	G	First appearance	X				X	
KENTUCKY:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X				X	
LOUISIANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies			Varies		
City and Parish Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			
MAINE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

			Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
MARYLAND:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Citation/information	X				X	
MASSACHUSETTS:								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:								
Superior Court Dept.	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Housing Court Dept	L	Complaint	X					X
District Court Dept.	L	Complaint	X					X
Boston Municipal Ct.	L	Complaint	X					X
MICHIGAN:								
Circuit Court	G	Information	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
MINNESOTA:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
MISSISSIPPI:								
Circuit Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
Chancery Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
MISSOURI:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
(Associate Division)	L	Complaint/Information		X			X	
MONTANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
Justice of Peace Court and Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
City Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEBRASKA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(not consistently observed statewide)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	
NEVADA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
Justice Court	L	Complaint	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
NEW HAMPSHIRE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
NEW JERSEY:								
Superior Court (Law Division)	G	Accusation/indictment	X				X	X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	X

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
NEW MEXICO:								
District Court	G	Indictment/information	X				X	(May vary with prosecutor)
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEW YORK:								
Supreme Court	G	Defendant/Indictment	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
County Court	G	Defendant/Indictment	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	Docket number	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
District Court and City Court	L	Docket number	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	Complaint	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
NORTH CAROLINA:								
Superior Court	G	Transfer (from District Court) Indictment (when case originates in Superior Court	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
District Court	L	Warrant/summons (includes citations, Magistrates order, misdemeanor statement of charges)	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
NORTH DAKOTA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(may vary)
County Court	L	Complaint/information	X				Varies	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
OHIO:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Arraignment	X				X	
County Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Mayor's Court	L	No data reported						
OKLAHOMA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
OREGON:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment		X	(Number of charges not consistent statewide)			
District Court	L	Complaint/indictment		X	(Number of charges not consistent statewide)			
Justice Court	L	Complaint		X	(Number of charges not consistent statewide)			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint		X	X			
PENNSYLVANIA:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Information/docket transcript	X				X	
District Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court	L	Complaint	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

			Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
PUERTO RICO:								
Superior Court	G	Accusation	X		X			
District Court	L	Charge	X		X			
RHODE ISLAND:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
District Court	L	Complaint	X					X
SOUTH CAROLINA:								
Circuit Court	G	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Magistrate Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
SOUTH DAKOTA:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
TENNESSEE:								
Circuit Court and Criminal Court	G	Information/indictment	Not consistent statewide					
General Sessions Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
TEXAS:								
District Court and Criminal District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
County-Level Courts	L	Complaint/information	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
UTAH:								
District Court	G	Information		X				X
Circuit Court	L	Information/citation	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Citation	X				X	
VERMONT:								
District Court	G	Arraignment	X					X
VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
WASHINGTON:								
Superior Court	G	(Original) Information	X					X
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
WEST VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint			X			X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
WISCONSIN:								
Circuit Court	G	Initial appearance	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Citation*	X		X			

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FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

			Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
WYOMING:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
County Court	L	Complaint/information		X				X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint/information		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Citation/complaint	X		X			

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.

FOOTNOTES*

Arizona—Varies in limited jurisdiction courts. Prosecutor can file either long or short form. Long form can involve one or more defendants and/or charges; short form involves one defendant and a single charge.

Wisconsin—Municipal Court—The court has exclusively civil jurisdiction, but its caseload includes first offense DWI/DUI cases. The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* treats all DWI/DUI cases as a subcategory of criminal cases.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified for 1990 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
ALABAMA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
District Court	L		X	X		18
ALASKA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARIZONA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARKANSAS:						
Circuit Court	G			X	X	18
Chancery and Probate Court	G		X	X		18
CALIFORNIA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
COLORADO:						
District Court (includes Denver Juvenile Court)	G		X		X	18
CONNECTICUT:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	16
DELAWARE:						
Family Court	L		X		X	18
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	18*
FLORIDA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
GEORGIA:						
Superior Court and Juvenile Court	G	(special)	X		X	17*
HAWAII:						
Circuit Court (Family Court Division)	G	X		X		16
IDAHO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
ILLINOIS:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	17 (15 for first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, armed robbery, robbery with a firearm, and unlawful use of weapons on school grounds)
INDIANA:						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
Probate Court	L		X	X		18
IOWA:						
District Court	G		X	Disposition data are not collected		18
KANSAS:						
District Court	G		X		X	18 14 (for traffic violation) 16 (for fish and game or charged with felony with two prior juvenile adjudications, which would be considered a felony)
KENTUCKY:						
District Court	L		X	X		18
LOUISIANA:						
District Court	G		X	X		17
Family Court and Juvenile Court	G		X	X		15 (for first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and aggravated rape)
City Court	L		X	X		16 (for armed robbery, aggravated burglary, and aggravated kidnapping)
MAINE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18
MARYLAND:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
District Court	L		X		X	18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	Disposition counted At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:	G					
District Court Dept.			X	X		17
Juvenile Court Dept.			X	X		17
MICHIGAN:						
Probate Court	L		X		X	17
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
MISSISSIPPI:						
County Court	L		X	X		
Family Court	L		X	X		
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		17
MONTANA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18
NEBRASKA:						
Separate Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
County Court	L		X		X	18
NEVADA:						
District Court	G		Varies by District		Varies by District	18*
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18 16 (for traffic violation) 15 (for some felony charges)
NEW JERSEY:*						
Superior Court	G	X		X		18 complaint
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
NEW YORK:						
Family Court	L		X		X	16 13 (for murder and kidnapping)
NORTH CAROLINA:						
District Court	L		X (First filing only)	X		16
NORTH DAKOTA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18

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FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

		Filings are counted		Disposition counted		
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
OHIO:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X	(warrant)		X	18
OKLAHOMA:						
District Court	G		X	X (case number)		18
OREGON:						
Circuit Court	G		X	Dispositions are not counted		18
County Court	L		X			18
PENNSYLVANIA:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X		X		18
PUERTO RICO:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
RHODE ISLAND:						
Family Court	L		X	X		18
SOUTH CAROLINA:						
Family Court	L		X	X		17
SOUTH DAKOTA:						
Circuit Court	G	X		X		18
TENNESSEE:						
General Sessions Court	L	X			X	18
Juvenile Court	L	X			X	18
TEXAS:						
District Court	G		X		X	17
County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court, Probate Court	L		X		X	17
UTAH:						
Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
VERMONT:						
District Court	G		X		X	16
VIRGINIA:						
District Court	L		X		X	18
WASHINGTON:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
WEST VIRGINIA:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
WISCONSIN:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted At intake or referral	 At filing of petition or complaint	Disposition counted At adjudication of petition	 At disposition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
WYOMING:						
District Court	G		X	X		19

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.

FOOTNOTES*

District of Columbia—Depending on the severity of the offense a juvenile between the ages of 16-18 can be charged as an adult.

Georgia—18 for deprived juveniles.

New Jersey—All signed juvenile delinquency complaints are filed with the court and are docketed upon receipt (and therefore counted). Once complaints have been docketed they are screened by Court Intake Services and decisions are made as to how complaints will be processed (e.g. diversion, court hearings, etc.)

Nevada—Unless certified at a younger age because of felony charged.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified for 1990 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
ALABAMA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	District, Probate, Municipal Courts
ALASKA:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		X	X	X	on the record	District Court
ARIZONA:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo (if no record)	Justice of the Peace, Municipal Court
ARKANSAS:						
Circuit Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Court of Common Pleas, County, Municipal, City, and Police Courts and Justice of the Peace
CALIFORNIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice Court, Municipal Court
COLORADO:						
District Court	G	X	X	O	on the record	County and Municipal Court of Record
		O	O	X	de novo	County and Municipal Court of Record
County Court	L	O	X	X	de novo not of record	Municipal Court
CONNECTICUT:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court
DELAWARE:						
Superior Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court of Wilmington, Alderman's, Justice of Peace Courts
		X	X	X	on the record (arbitration)	Superior Court Court of Common Pleas
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Office of Employee Appeals, Administrative Traffic Agency
FLORIDA:						
Circuit Court	G	O	X	O	de novo on the record	County Court
		O	O	X	on the record	County Court

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990. (continued)

			Trial Court Appeals			
State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Civil	Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
GEORGIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court, Magistrate Court
		O	O	X	de novo, on the record, or certiorari	Probate Court, Municipal Court, Magistrate Court, County Recorder's Court
State Court	L	O	X	O	certiorari	Magistrate Court
		O	O	X	on the record	County Recorder's Court
HAWAII:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
IDAHO:						
District Court	G	X (small claims only)	X	X	de novo	Magistrates Division
		O	X	O	on the record	Magistrates Division
ILLINOIS:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
INDIANA:						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	City and Town Courts
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	O	X	O	de novo	Small Claims Court of Marion County
IOWA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		O	X	X	on the record	Magistrates Division
KANSAS:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	criminal on the record civil on the record	Criminal (from Municipal Court) Civil (from limited jurisdiction judge)
KENTUCKY:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court
LOUISIANA:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	City and Parish, Justice of the Peace, Mayor's Courts
MAINE:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court, Administrative Court
MARYLAND:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, on the record	District Court

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Superior Court Department	G	X	X	O	de novo, on the record	Other departments
District Court Department and Boston Municipal Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, first instance	Other departments
MICHIGAN:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
		O	X	O	on the record	District, Municipal, and Probate Courts
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G	O	X		de novo	Conciliation Division
MISSISSIPPI:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record Courts	County and Municipal
Chancery Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Commission
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		X	X	O	de novo	Municipal Court, Associate Divisions
MONTANA:						
District Court	G	X	X	O	de novo and on the record	Justice of Peace, Municipal, City Courts, and State Boards
		O	O	X	de novo	
NEBRASKA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo on the record	
		O	X	X	on the record	County Court
NEVADA:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice Court
		O	O	X	de novo	Municipal Court
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	X	de novo	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
NEW JERSEY:						
Superior Court	G	O	O	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts
NEW YORK:						
County Court	G	O	X	X	on the record	City, Town and Village Justice Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
NORTH CAROLINA:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	X	de novo	District Court
		X	O	O	de novo on the record	
		X	O	O	on the record	
NORTH DAKOTA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	Varies	
County Court	L	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
OHIO:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X	O	O	de novo and on the record	
County Court	L	O	O	X	de novo	Mayor's Court
Municipal Court	L	O	O	X	de novo	Mayor's Court
Court of Claims	L	X	O	O	de novo	
OKLAHOMA:						
District Court	G	X	O	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court Not of Record
Court of Tax Review	L	X	O	O	de novo on the record	
OREGON:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	County Court, Municipal Court (in counties with no District Court) Justice Court (in counties with no District Court)
Tax Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
PENNSYLVANIA:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X	X	O	on the record	Philadelphia Municipal Court, District Justice, Philadelphia Traffic, Pittsburgh City
		O	O	X	Magistrates Court de novo	
PUERTO RICO:						
Superior Court	G	O	X	X	—	District Court
RHODE ISLAND:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		O	X	X	de novo	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
District Court	L	X	O	O	on the record	
SOUTH CAROLINA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal Courts
SOUTH DAKOTA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo and on the record	
		O	X	X	de novo	Magistrates Division

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
TENNESSEE: Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	G	X	X	X	de novo	General Sessions, Municipal, and Juvenile Courts
TEXAS: District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts
					de novo on the record	Municipal Courts of record
County-Level Courts	L	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts
					de novo on the record	Municipal Courts of record
UTAH: District Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Circuit Court,
		O	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace Courts
VERMONT: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo on the record	District Court, Probate Court
VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		O	X	X	de novo	District Court
WASHINGTON: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	District, Municipal Courts
WEST VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		O	X	X	de novo	Magistrate Court
WISCONSIN: Circuit Court	G	O	X	X (first offense DWI/DUI only)	de novo	Municipal Court
		X	X	X (first offense DWI/DUI only)	on the record	Municipal Court
WYOMING: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice of the Peace, Municipal, County Courts

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.
— = Information not available.

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1990. (continued)

Definitions of types of appeal:

certiorari: An appellate court case category in which a petition is presented to an appellate court asking the court to review the judgment of a trial court or administrative agency, or the decision of an intermediate appellate court.

first instance: If dissatisfied with the de novo verdict of the judge, defendant can go before the jury.

de novo: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that results in a totally new set of proceedings and a new trial court judgment.

de novo on the record: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that is based on the record and results in a new trial court judgment.

on the record: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court in which procedural challenges to the original trial proceedings are claimed, and an evaluation of those challenges are made—there is not a new trial court judgment on the case.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1990 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1990

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)		General jurisdiction court(s)		Limited jurisdiction court(s)	
Alabama	9	8		124		380	
Alaska	5	3		35	(includes 5 masters)	75	(includes 58 magistrates)
Arizona	5	21		116		221	(includes 84 justices of the peace, 55 part-time judges)
Arkansas	7	6		98		334	
California	7	88		909	(includes 120 commissioners and referees)	807	(includes 137 commissioners and referees)
Colorado	7	16		113	(includes 1 referee, 2 commissioners)	362	(includes 52 part-time judges)
Connecticut	7	9		150		132	
Delaware	5	—		20	(includes 1 chancellor and 4 vicechancellors)	93	(includes 53 justices of the peace, 1 chief magistrate, 18 aldermen, 1 part-time judge)
District of Columbia	9	—		59		—	
Florida	7	57		421		241	
Georgia	7	9		148		1174	(includes 80 part-time judges, 159 chief magistrates, 246 full-time and 38 part-time magistrates, and 34 associate juvenile court judges)
Hawaii	5	3		34	(includes 10 Family Court judges)	59	(includes 35 per diem judges)
Idaho	5	3		104	(includes 63 lawyer and 8 non-lawyer magistrates)	—	
Illinois	7	50	(includes 12 supplemental judges)	810	—	—	
Indiana	5	13		229		130	
Iowa	9	6		325	(includes 149 part-time magistrates)	—	
Kansas	7	10		218	(includes 70 district magistrates)	314	
Kentucky	7	14		91		125	
Louisiana	7	48		194		706	(includes 384 justices of the peace, 250 mayors)
Maine	7	—		16		43	(includes 16 part-time judges)
Maryland	7	13		116		161	
Massachusetts	7	14		320		—	
Michigan	7	24		200		366	
Minnesota	7	15		241		—	
Mississippi	9	—		79		482	(includes 165 mayors, 191 justices of the peace)
Missouri	7	32		303		301	
Montana	7	—		41		131	(includes 37 justices of the peace that also serve on the city court)

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FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1990. (continued)

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)		Limited jurisdiction court(s)	
Nebraska	7	—	48		69	
Nevada	5	—	37		88	
New Hampshire	5	—	26		100	(includes part-time judges)
New Jersey	7	28	359		374	(includes 345 part-time judges)
New Mexico	5	7	59		183	(includes 2 part-time judges)
New York	7	62	568		2924	(includes 76 surrogates, 2,242 justices of the peace)
North Carolina	7	12	177	(includes 100 clerks who hear uncontested probate)	818	(includes 654 magistrates of which approximately 70 are part-time)
North Dakota	5	3 *	27		128	
Ohio	7	59	344		761	(includes 500 mayors)
Oklahoma	14	12	210		376	(includes unknown number of part-time judges)
Oregon	7	10	90		230	(includes 34 justices of the peace)
Pennsylvania	7	24	342		572	(includes 538 district justices and 6 magistrates)
Puerto Rico	7	—	108		158	(includes 10 special judges)
Rhode Island	5	—	23	(includes 2 masters)	84	(includes 3 masters)
South Carolina	5	6	52	(includes 21 masters-in-equity)	667	(includes 325 magistrates)
South Dakota	5	—	196	(includes 9 part-time lay magistrates, 18 law magistrates, 87 full-time magistrate/clerks, 46 part-time lay magistrate/clerks)	—	
Tennessee	5	21	138	(includes 33 chancellors)	329	(includes 7 part-time judges)
Texas	18	80	384		2554	(includes 928 justices of the peace)
Utah	5	7	29		190	(includes 140 justices of the peace)
Vermont	5	—	29		19	(part-time)
Virginia	7	10	131		192	(includes 77 FTE juvenile and domestic relations judges)
Washington	9	17	147		203	(includes 109 part-time judges
West Virginia	5	—	60		278	(includes 156 magistrates and 122 part-time judges)
Wisconsin	7	13	210		193	(includes 190 part-time judges)
Wyoming	5	—	17		107	(includes 14 part-time justices of the peace and 75 part-time judges)
Total	356	833	9325		18234	

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— = The state does not have a court at the indicated level.

NOTE: This table identifies, in parentheses, all individuals who hear cases but are not titled judges/justices. Some states may have given the title "judge" to officials who are called magistrates, justices of the peace, etc., in other states.

FOOTNOTES*

Minnesota—General Jurisdiction and Limited Jurisdiction Courts were consolidated in 1987.

North Dakota—Court of Appeals effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1990. A temporary Court of Appeals was established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the Supreme Court.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1990 State Trial and Appellate Court statistical profiles.

FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
ALABAMA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	No
District Court	L	New filing		No	No
ALASKA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	No
ARIZONA:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filing		No	No
ARKANSAS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Chancery and Probate Court	G	Reopened		No	No
CALIFORNIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Retried cases	No	No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
Justice Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
COLORADO:					
District Court	G	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
Water Court	G	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
CONNECTICUT:					
Superior Court	G	New filing	-	No	No if heard separately (rarely occurs)
DELAWARE:					
Court of Chancery	G	Reopened		No	No
Superior Court	G	New filing Reopened	If remanded Case rehearing	No	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filing		No	Yes/No
Family Court	L	New filing is heard separately Reopened - if rehearing of total case	If part of original proceeding	No	No
Court of Common Pleas	L	New filing Reopened	If remanded Rehearing	No	No
Alderman's Court	L	New filing Reopened	If remanded Rehearing	No	No
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	
FLORIDA:					
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
GEORGIA:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		Yes	No
Civil Court	L	NC		NC	NC
State Court	L	New filing		Yes	No
Probate Court	L	New filing		NC	NC
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		NC	NC
HAWAII:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	Yes/Yes Special proceedings	Yes/Yes Circuit Court: Special Proceedings
Family Court	G	New filing	Redocketed		Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	No	Yes/No (included as new case filing)
IDAHO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	No
ILLINOIS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
INDIANA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
City Court	L	NA	NA	NA	N/Applicable
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	NA	NA	NA	NA
IOWA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	No
KANSAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
KENTUCKY:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
LOUISIANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Juvenile Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	No
Family Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	No	No
City & Parish Courts	L	New filing	As action on open case	Yes/No	No
MAINE:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
MARYLAND:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	NA
District Court	L	NA		NA	Yes/No
MASSACHUSETTS:					
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:	-				
Superior Court Dept.	G	NC		NA	Yes/No
District Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Housing Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Land Court Dept.	G	NC		N/Applicable	NA
MICHIGAN:					
Court of Claims	G	Reopened		No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
MINNESOTA:					
District Court	G	Identified separately	No	No	
MISSISSIPPI:					
Circuit Court	G	NA		NA	NA
Chancery Court	G	NA		NA	NA
County Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Family Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
MISSOURI:					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		Yes/No	Yes/No
MONTANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
City Court	L	NA		NA	NA
NEBRASKA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
NEVADA:					
District Court	G	Reopened	May not be reopened but refers back to original case	Varies/Varies	Varies
NEW HAMPSHIRE:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
NEW JERSEY:					
Superior Court:					
Civil, Family, General Equity, and Criminal Divisions	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No (except for domestic violence)
NEW MEXICO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	No
Magistrate Court	L	Reopened		No	No
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	Reopened		No	No
NEW YORK:					
Supreme Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
County Court	L	NC		No	No
Court of Claims	L	NC		No	No
Family Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
City Court	L	NC		No	No
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	NC		No	No
Town & Village Justice Court	L	NC		No	No
NORTH CAROLINA:					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	No
District Court	L	NC		Yes/No	No
NORTH DAKOTA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/Yes (only counted if a hearing was held)	Yes/Yes
County Court	L	New filing		No	No
OHIO:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		Yes/No (are counted separately in domestic relations cases)	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	NA		NA	NA
OKLAHOMA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
OREGON:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
District Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA
PENNSYLVANIA:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		No	No
District Justice Court	L	New filing		NA	NA
PUERTO RICO:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	NA
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	NA

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
RHODE ISLAND:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Family Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Probate Court	L	NA		NA	NA
SOUTH CAROLINA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	No (Permanent
Family Court	L	New filing		No	No injunctions
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		No	No are counted
Probate Court	L	New filing		No	No as a new filing)
SOUTH DAKOTA:					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
TENNESSEE:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)
Chancery Court	G	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)
General Sessions Court	L	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)
TEXAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Constitutional County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
County Court at Law	L	Reopened		No	No
Justice Court	L	New filing		No	No
UTAH:					
District Court	G	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Circuit Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Justice Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
VERMONT:					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
District Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable
VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Reinstated cases	Yes/Yes	Yes/No
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	No
WASHINGTON:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Municipal Court	L	New filing		NA	NA
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	NA
WEST VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Magistrate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
WISCONSIN:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing	Identified with R (reopened) suffix, but included in total count	No	Yes/Yes
WYOMING:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA
County Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction Court
L = Limited Jurisdiction Court
NA = Information is not available
NC = Information is not collected/counted
N/Applicable = Civil case types heard by this court are not applicable to this figure.

Source: The 1990 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

APPENDIX A

METHODOLOGY

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Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization

The Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts compiles and reports comparable court caseload data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In the process, project publications and technical assistance encourage greater uniformity in how individual state courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information. Progress toward these goals should result in more meaningful and useful caseload information at the disposal of judges, court managers, and court administrators.

The *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series is a cooperative effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Responsibility for project management and staffing is assumed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, provides policy guidance and review. The Court Statistics Committee includes members of COSCA and representatives of state court administrative office senior staff, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, the National Association for Court Management, and the academic community. Preparation of the 1990 caseload report was funded by an ongoing grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI-91-07X-B-007) to the NCSC.

In addition to preparing publications, the Court Statistics Project responds to about 500 requests for information and assistance each year. These requests come from a variety of sources, including state court administrative offices, local courts, individual judges, federal and state agencies, legislators, the media, academic researchers, students, and NCSC staff. Requests can be grouped into four main categories: caseload data, court jurisdictional information, information on data collection and reporting techniques, and statistical analyses of caseload data. The subject matter of these requests is taken into consideration when selecting topics for emphasis in the caseload statistics report series.

Sources of Data

Information for the national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically official state court annual reports, which assume a variety of forms and vary widely in detail. Although constituting the most reliable and valid data available at the state level, they arrive from statistical data filed monthly, quarterly, or annually by numerous local jurisdictions and, in most states, several trial and appellate court systems. Moreover, these caseload statistics are primarily collected to assist states in managing their own systems and are not prepared specifically for inclusion in the COSCA/NCSC caseload statistics report series.

Some states either do not publish an annual report or publish only limited caseload statistics for either trial or appellate courts. The Court Statistics Project receives unpublished data from those states in a wide range of forms, including internal management memos, computer-generated output, and the Project's statistical and jurisdictional profiles, which are updated by state court administrative office staff.

Extensive telephone contact and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected concerning the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. Appendix B lists the source of each state's 1990 caseload statistics.

Data Collection Procedures

The following outline summarizes the major tasks involved in compiling the 1990 caseload data reported in this volume:

A. The 1990 state reports were evaluated to note changes in the categories and terminology used for data reporting, changes in the range of available data, and changes in each state's court organization or jurisdiction. This entailed a direct comparison of the 1990 material with the contents of each state's 1989 annual report. Project staff used a copy of each state's 1989 trial and appellate court statistical spreadsheets, trial and appellate court jurisdiction guides and the state court structure chart as worksheets for gathering the 1990 data. Use of the previous year's spreadsheets provides the data collector with a reference point to identify and replicate the logic used in the data collection and ensure consistency in the report series over time. The caseload data were entered onto the 1990 spreadsheets. Caseload terminology is defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989.* Prototypes of appellate and trial court statistical spreadsheets can be found in Appendix C.

B. Caseload numbers were screened for significant changes from the previous year. A record that documents and, where possible, explains such changes is maintained. This process serves as another reliability check by identifying statutory, organizational, or procedural changes that could have affected the size of the reported court caseload.

The Project implemented one important change in the trial court data collection process for 1990. Before 1990, it was impossible for limited jurisdiction courts that had limited felony jurisdiction to report complete and comparable criminal data. Criminal data for these courts indicated felony jurisdiction, when actually the courts did not have complete felony jurisdiction but were merely able to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases and then either dismiss or bind cases over to the court of general jurisdiction. Because preliminary hearings are not counted as part of the actual caseload (they are reported in a separate "other proceedings" category along with other special proceedings, such as postconviction remedy and sentence review only), the criminal data for these limited jurisdiction courts were footnoted as incomplete since felony cases were missing from the total. For the 1990 *Report*, it was decided that it is both misleading and inappropriate to report that a court has felony jurisdiction if in fact it can merely hold preliminary hearings and either bind the case over to another court or dismiss the case. As a result of this decision, the Arizona Justice of the Peace Court, the New Hampshire District Court, the New Hampshire Municipal Court, the Criminal Court of the City of New York, the North Dakota County Court, the Oregon District Court, the South Carolina Municipal Court, the West Virginia Magistrate Court, the Wyoming County Court, and the Wyoming Justice of the Peace Court now report complete and comparable criminal data.

Six states that reported criminal data that were both incomplete and overinclusive, were no longer incomplete, and merely included some noncriminal case types: the Kentucky District Court; the Nebraska County Court; the Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County, New Mexico; the Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court, Pennsylvania; the Rhode Island District Court; and the Utah Justice Court.

Eight states continued to report criminal data that were either incomplete or both incomplete and overinclusive, but are no longer footnoted as missing felony caseload: the Arkansas Municipal Court; the Municipal Court of Wilmington, Delaware; the North Carolina District Court; the Puerto Rico District Court; the South Carolina Magistrates Court; the Texas Justice of the Peace Court; the Texas Municipal Court; and the Utah Justice Court.

C. The data were then transferred from the handwritten copy to computer databases that are created as computerized spreadsheets. Mathematical formulas are embedded in each spreadsheet to compute the caseload totals. The reliability of the data collection and data entry process was verified through an independent review by another project staff member of all decisions made by the original data collector. Linked spreadsheets contain the information on the number of judges, court jurisdiction, and state population needed to generate caseload tables for the 1990 *Report.*

D. After the data were entered and checked for data entry errors and internal consistency, individual spreadsheets were generated for the appellate and trial courts. The spreadsheet relates the total for each model reporting category to the category or categories the state used to report its caseload numbers.

E. Trial court spreadsheets for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were sent directly to the state court administrative offices for verification. This new step in the data collection process (which began with 22 states for the 1989 *Report*) provided further assurance of data accuracy and also yielded a bonus when seventeen states added caseload data that in previous years had not been provided. For the 1990 *Report*, an additional effort to improve trial court data was undertaken by the Court Statistics Project. Each member of the Court Statistics Advisory Committee was asked to focus on the completeness and comparability of civil and criminal data in their own state to determine if data could be provided to more closely conform to the Court Statistics Project prototype. Each committee member was also asked to contact one or two other states that had similar problems in the format in which data are provided to discuss the difficulties and see if together they might resolve those problems. Six states provided additional data or data that more closely conformed to the Court Statistics Project prototype as a result of this undertaking. These two strategies, designed to increase the completeness and comparability of state court caseload statistics, resulted in additional data being provided by the following states:

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Hawaii
Louisiana
Maryland
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Puerto Rico
South Dakota

Tennessee Texas
Washington

F. Appellate court statistical spreadsheets and jurisdiction guides were sent for review and verification to the appellate court clerks in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Four states—Arizona, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, and Ohio—provided Project staff with additional appellate court caseload data. In addition, 13 states were of great assistance to the Project by updating and returning their jurisdiction guides.

G. Finally, the caseload tables in Part III and the smaller tables supporting the text of Parts I and II were generated. The spreadsheet for each court system is directly linked to the tables, each itself created as a computerized spreadsheet, and once all of the 1990 data had been entered and verified these links were automatically updated. This updating procedure allows all of the 1990 data to be placed on one large spreadsheet that is then used to generate the tables for Part III of the report. Trend databases are maintained separately using SPSS PC and contain selected categories of appellate and trial court caseloads.

Variables

Four basic types of data elements are collected by the Court Statistics Project: (1) trial court caseload statistics, (2) trial court jurisdictional/organizational information, (3) appellate court caseload, and (4) appellate court jurisdictional/organizational information.

For trial courts, emphasis is placed on reporting the total number of civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violation cases according to the model reporting format. Each of these major case types can be reduced to more-specific caseload categories. For example, civil cases consist of tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, mental health, estate and domestic relations cases, trial court civil appeals, and appeals of administrative agency cases. In some instances, these case types can be further refined; for example, domestic relations cases can be divided into marriage dissolution, URESA, support/custody, adoption, and paternity cases.

Currently, only filing and disposition numbers are entered into the database for each case type. Data on pending cases were routinely collected by the Project staff until serious comparability problems were identified when compiling the 1984 *Report*. Some courts provide data that include active cases only; others include active and inactive cases. The COSCA Court Statistics Committee recommended that the collection of pending caseloads be deferred until a study determines whether and how data can be made comparable across states.

The trial court jurisdictional profile collects an assortment of information relevant to the organization and jurisdiction of each trial court system. Before the use of computerized spreadsheets for reporting statistical data, the main purpose of the profile was to translate the states' terminology for reporting statistical information into generic terms recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Each court's spreadsheet captures the state's terminology, and the jurisdiction guide format has been streamlined. The jurisdictional profile currently collects information on number of courts, number of judges, methods of counting cases, availability of jury trials, dollar amount jurisdiction of the court, and time standards for case processing.

There are also statistical spreadsheets and jurisdiction guides for each state appellate court. Two major case types are used on the statistical spreadsheet: mandatory cases that the court must hear on the merits as appeals of right, and discretionary petition cases that the court decides on whether to accept and then reach a decision on the merits. The statistical spreadsheet also contains the number of petitions granted where it can be determined. Mandatory and discretionary petitions are further differentiated by whether the case is a review of a final trial court judgment or some other matter, such as a request for interlocutory or postconviction relief. Where possible, the statistics are classified according to subject matter, chiefly civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, or administrative agency.

The appellate court jurisdiction guide contains information about each court, including number of court locations, number of justices/judges, number of legal support personnel, point at which appeals are counted as cases, procedures used to review discretionary petitions, and use of panels.

Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload Data

The 1985 and 1986 caseload reports used maps to summarize the data contained in the main caseload tables. Subsequent *Reports* also use maps to display information, but limit their role to summarizing court structure and jurisdiction and describing caseload comparability.

Instead of maps, the 1990 *Report* makes extensive use of pie charts and bar graphs to summarize caseload data and trends. In the charts and graphs displaying 1990 caseload data, states are usually arrayed by filing rate, from lowest to highest, so that the midpoint and the distribution of rates can be easily determined. A state is excluded from a graph only if the state's relevant data is less than 75 percent complete. In the text tables and bar graphs used to display trend data, only states that have reported statistics in comparable terms over the full seven year period are included. While efforts are made to note in the graph why states are not included, it is incorrect to conclude that a state omitted from the graph did not report data to the Project. The only definitive statement of data availability can be found in the detailed caseload tables of Part III.

Footnotes

Footnotes indicate the degree to which a court's statistics conform to the Court Statistics Project's reporting categories defined in the *State Court Model Statisti-*

cal Dictionary. Footnoted caseload statistics are either overinclusive in that they contain case types other than those defined for the term in the dictionary, or are underinclusive in that some case types defined for the term in the dictionary are not included. It is possible for a caseload statistic to contain inapplicable case types while also omitting those which are applicable, making the total or subtotal simultaneously overinclusive and underinclusive. The 1990 *Report* uses a simplified system of footnotes. An "A" footnote indicates that the caseload statistic for a statewide court system does not include some of the recommended case types; a "B" footnote indicates that the statistic includes some extraneous case types; a "C" footnote indicates that the data are both incomplete and overinclusive. The text of the footnote explains how the caseload data for each court system differ from the reporting category recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Caseload statistics that are not qualified by a footnote conform to the dictionary's definition.

Case filings and dispositions are also affected by the unit and method of count used by the states, differing subject matter and dollar amount jurisdiction, and different court system structures. Most of these differences are described in the figures found in Part V of this volume and summarized in the court structure chart for each state in Part IV. The most important differences are reported in summary form in the main caseload tables in Part III.

Variations in Reporting Periods

As indicated in Figure A (Part V), most states report data by fiscal year, others by calendar year, and a few appellate courts report data by court term. Therefore, the 12-month period covered in this report is not the same for all courts.

This report reflects court organization and jurisdiction in 1990. Since 1975, new courts have been created at both the appellate and trial level, new courts report data to the Court Statistics Project, courts may have merged and changed counting or reporting methods. The dollar amount limits of civil jurisdiction in many trial courts also vary. Care is therefore required when comparing 1990 data to previous years. The trend analysis used in this report offers a model for undertaking such comparisons.

Final Note

Comments, corrections, and suggestions are a vital part of the work of the Court Statistics Project. Users of the *Report* are encouraged to write to the Director, Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23187-8798.

APPENDIX B

SOURCES OF 1990 STATE COURT CASELOAD STATISTICS

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STATES	COURTS OF LAST RESORT	INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE	GENERAL JURISDICTION	LIMITED JURISDICTION
Alabama	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1990	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1990	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1990	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1990
Alaska	Alaska Court System 1990 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1990 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1990 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1990 Annual Report
Arizona	The Arizona Courts FY 1990 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1990 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1990 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1990 Data Report
Arkansas	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1989-1990	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1989-1990	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1989-1990	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1989-1990
California	1990 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California	1990 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Annual Data Reference: 1989-90 Caseload Data by Individual Courts	Annual Data Reference: 1989-90 Caseload Data by Individual Courts
Colorado	Colorado Judicial Department. Annual Report FY 89-90--Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 89-90--Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 89-90--Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 89-90--Statistical Supplement
Connecticut	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.
Delaware	1990 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	--------------------------	1990 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	1990 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report,1990	--------------------------	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1990. Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Officer.	--------------------------

STATES	COURTS OF LAST RESORT	INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE	GENERAL JURISDICTION	LIMITED JURISDICTION
Florida	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Department of Highways, Safety, and Motor Vehicles.
Georgia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Hawaii	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement 1989-1990	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement 1989-1990	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement 1989-1990	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement 1989-1990
Idaho	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1990; 1990 Appendix	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1990; 1990 Appendix	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1990;1990 Appendix	--------------------------
Illinois	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	--------------------------
Indiana	1990 Indiana Judicial Report	1990 Indiana Judicial Report	1990 Indiana Judicial Report	1990 Indiana Judicial Report
Iowa	1990 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1990 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1990 Annual Statistical Report	--------------------------
Kansas	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1989-1990 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1989-1990 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1989-1990 FY	Kansas Municipal Courts Caseload Report, FY 1990
Kentucky	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Louisiana	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	1990 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana	1990 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.	1990 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.
Maine	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 90	------------------------------	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 90	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 90

STATES	COURTS OF LAST RESORT	INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE	GENERAL JURISDICTION	LIMITED JURISDICTION
Maryland	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1989-1990	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1989-1990	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1989-1990. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1989-1990
Massachusetts	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appeals Court.	Annual Report of the MA Trial Court, 1990. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrator of Courts.	--------------------------
Michigan	1990 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator and Statistical Supplement	1990 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator and Statistical Supplement	The Michigan State Courts Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement	The Michigan State Courts Annual Report 1990 and Statistical Supplement
Minnesota	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	------------------------------
Mississippi	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1990 Annual Report	------------------------------	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1990 Annual Report	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1990 Annual Report
Missouri	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Fiscal Report, 1990	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Fiscal Report, 1990	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1990. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Data were not available.
Montana	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court.	--------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator	Data were not available.
Nebraska	Nebraska Supreme Court 1990 Annual Report	--------------------------	Nebraska Supreme Court 1990 Annual Report	Nebraska Supreme Court 1990 Annual Report
Nevada	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	--------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the Adminis. Dir. of Courts	Unpublished data were provided by the Adminis. Dir. of Courts
New Hampshire	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	--------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.
New Jersey	Annual Report 89-90. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Annual Report 89-90. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	NJ Judiciary: Superior Court Caseload Reference Guide, 1986-1990. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
New Mexico	The New Mexico Courts, 1990 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1990 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1990 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1990 Annual Report

STATES	COURTS OF LAST RESORT	INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE	GENERAL JURISDICTION	LIMITED JURISDICTION
New York	1990 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1990 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.
North Carolina	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	North Carolina Courts 1989-90: Annual Report of the AOC	North Carolina Courts, 1989-90: Annual Report of the AOC
North Dakota	Annual Report of the North Dakota Judicial System, Calendar Year 1990	Annual Report of the North Dakota Judicial System, Calendar Year 1990	Annual Report of the ND Judicial System, CY 1990. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Annual Report of the ND Judicial System, CY 1990. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Ohio	Ohio Courts Summary, 1990	Ohio Courts Summary, 1990	Ohio Courts Summary, 1990	Ohio Courts Summary, 1990
Oklahoma	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 90	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 90	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 90 and Statistical Appendix	Data were not available.
Oregon	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Pennsylvania	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Puerto Rico	Not available.	-------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Rhode Island	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	-------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
South Carolina	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1990	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1990	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1990. Additional unpublished data were provided.	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1990
South Dakota	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1990 Annual Report of SD Unified Judicial System	-------------------------	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1990 Annual Report of the SD Unified Judicial System	-------------------------
Tennessee	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report, 1989-90	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report, 1989-90

STATES	COURTS OF LAST RESORT	INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE	GENERAL JURISDICTION	LIMITED JURISDICTION
Texas	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1989-1990	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1989-1990	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1989-90	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1989-90
Utah	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Vermont	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30,1990.	--------------------------	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1990.	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1990.
Virginia	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1990	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1990	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1990	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1990
Washington	The 1990 Report of the Courts of Washington	The 1990 Report of the Courts of Washington	The 1990 Report of the Courts of Washington	1990 Caseloads of the Court of Limited Jurisdiction of Washington State
West Virginia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	--------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Wisconsin	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.
Wyoming	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	--------------------------	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.

APPENDIX C

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name
Court of last resort or intermediate appellate court
Number of divisions/departments, number of authorized justices/judges
Total population

	Beginning pending	Filed	Disposed	End pending
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:				
Appeals of final judgments:				
Civil				
Criminal:				
Capital criminal				
Other criminal				
Total criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other mandatory cases:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other mandatory				
Total mandatory cases				

	Filed	Filed Petitions Granted	Disposed	Filed Petitions Granted Disposed
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:				
Petitions of final judgment:				
Civil				
Criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other discretionary petitions:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other discretionary				
Total discretionary cases				
GRAND TOTAL				
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:				
Rehearing/reconsideration requests				
Motions				
Other matters				
Number of supplemental judges/justices				
Number of independent appellate courts at this level				

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
		Opinions				
	Predecision disposition (dismissed/ withdrawn/ settled)	Signed opinion	Per curiam opinion	Decision without opinion (memo/ order)	Transferred	Other
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:						
Appeals of final judgment						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other mandatory cases:						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Interlocutory decisions						
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases						
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:						
Petitions of final judgments:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other discretionary petitions						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Total discretionary cases						
GRAND TOTAL						

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

TYPE OF DECISION IN MANDATORY CASES/GRANTED PETITIONS OF FINAL JUDGMENT

	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Administrative agency	Other mandatory cases	Total
Opinions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						
Total decisions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						

TYPE OF DECISION IN OTHER DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS

	Petition granted	Petition denied	Other
Other discretionary petitions:			
Disciplinary matters			
Original proceedings			
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases			

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	TIME INTERVAL DATA (MONTH/DAYS)											
	Notice of appeal or ready for hearing			Ready for hearing or under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed)			Under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed) to decision			Notice of appeal to decision		
	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:												
Appeals of final judgment												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other mandatory cases												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases												
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:												
Petitions of final judgments												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other discretionary petitions												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Advisory opinions												
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases												
GRAND TOTAL												

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)												
	Not ready for hearing												
	Awaiting court reporter's transcript			Awaiting appellant's brief			Awaiting respondent's brief			Ready for hearing			Submitted or oral argument completed
	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	Average age of pending caseload
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:													
Appeals of final judgment													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other mandatory cases													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases													
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:													
Petitions of final judgments													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other discretionary petitions													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Advisory opinions													
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases													
GRAND TOTAL													

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name
Court of general jurisdiction or court of limited jurisdiction
Number of circuits or districts, number of judges
Total population

	Beginning Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending
CIVIL:				
Tort:				
Auto tort				
Product liability				
Medical malpractice				
Unclassified tort				
Miscellaneous tort				
Total Tort				
Contract				
Real property rights				
Small claims				
Domestic relations:				
Marriage dissolution				
Support/custody				
URESA				
Adoption				
Paternity				
Miscellaneous				
Unclassified				
Total domestic relations				
Estate:				
Probate/wills/intestate				
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship				
Miscellaneous estate				
Unclassified estate				
Total estate				
Mental health				
Appeal:				
Appeal of administrative agency case				
Appeal of trial court case				
Total civil appeals				
Miscellaneous civil				
Unclassified civil				
Total civil				
CRIMINAL:				
Felony				
Misdemeanor				
DWI/DUI				
Appeal				
Miscellaneous criminal				
Unclassified criminal				
Total Criminal				

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	Beginning Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:				
Moving traffic violation				
Ordinance violation				
Miscellaneous traffic				
Unclassified traffic				
Total traffic/other violation				
JUVENILE:				
Criminal-type petition				
Status offense				
Child-victim petition				
Miscellaneous juvenile				
Unclassified juvenile				
Total juvenile				
GRAND TOTAL				
Drug cases				
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:				
Postconviction remedy				
Preliminary hearings				
Sentence review only				
Extraordinary writs				
Total other proceedings				

MANNER OF CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

	Uncontested/ Default	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Settled	Transferred	Arbitration	Total
CIVIL:							
Tort:							
Auto tort							
Product liability							
Medical malpractice							
Unclassified tort							
Miscellaneous tort							
Total Tort							
Contract							
Real property rights							
Small claims							
Domestic relations:							
Marriage dissolution							
Support/custody							
URESA							
Adoption							
Paternity							
Miscellaneous							
Unclassified							
Total domestic relations							
Estate:							
Probate/wills/intestate							
Guardianship/conservatorship /trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

MANNER OF CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	Felony	Misdemeanor	DWI/DUI	Appeal	Miscellaneous criminal	Total
Jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Nonjury trial						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Dismissed/nolle prosequi						
Bail forfeiture						
Bound over						
Transferred						
Other						
Total dispositions						

MANNER OF TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	Moving traffic violation	Ordinance violation	Parking violation	Miscellaneous traffic violation	Total
Jury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Nonjury trial					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Dismissed/nolle prosequi					
Bail forfeiture					
Parking fines					
Transferred					
Other					
Total dispositions					

MANNER OF DISPOSITION: TRIALS

	Trial		
	Jury	Nonjury	Total
CIVIL:			
Tort:			
Auto tort			
Product liability			
Medical malpractice			
Unclassified tort			
Miscellaneous tort			
Total Tort			
Contract			
Real property rights			
Small claims			
Domestic relations:			
Marriage dissolution			
Support/custody			
URESA			
Adoption			
Paternity			
Miscellaneous			
Unclassified			
Total domestic relations			
Estate:			
Probate/wills/intestate			
Guardianship/conservatorship /trusteeship			
Miscellaneous estate			
Unclassified estate			
Total estate			
Mental health			
Appeal:			
Appeal of administrative agency case			
Appeal of trial court case			
Total civil appeals			
Miscellaneous civil			
Unclassified civil			
Total civil			

	Trial		
	Jury	Nonjury	Total
CRIMINAL:			
Felony			
Misdemeanor			
DWI/DUI			
Appeal			
Miscellaneous criminal			
Unclassified criminal			
Total criminal			
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:			
Moving traffic violation			
Ordinance violation			
Parking violation			
Miscellaneous traffic			
Unclassified traffic			
Total traffic/other violation			
JUVENILE:			
Criminal-type petition			
Status offense			
Child-victim petition			
Miscellaneous juvenile			
Unclassified juvenile			
Total juvenile			
GRAND TOTAL			

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							
	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	over 720 days	Average age of pending cases
CIVIL:								
Tort:								
Auto tort								
Product liability								
Medical malpractice								
Unclassified tort								
Miscellaneous tort								
Total Tort								
Contract								
Real property rights								
Small claims								
Domestic relations:								
Marriage dissolution								
Support/custody								
URESA								
Adoption								
Paternity								
Miscellaneous								
Unclassified								
Total domestic relations								
Estate:								
Probate/wills/intestate								
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship								
Miscellaneous estate								
Unclassified estate								
Total estate								
Mental health								
Appeal:								
Appeal of administrative agency case								
Appeal of trial court case								
Total civil appeals								
Miscellaneous civil								
Unclassified civil								
Total civil								

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							
	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	over 720 days	Average age of pending cases
CRIMINAL:								
Felony								
Misdemeanor								
DWI/DUI								
Appeal								
Miscellaneous criminal								
Unclassified criminal								
Total criminal								
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:								
Moving traffic violation								
Ordinance violation								
Parking violation								
Miscellaneous traffic								
Unclassified traffic								
Total traffic/other violation								
JUVENILE:								
Criminal-type petition								
Status offense								
Child-victim petition								
Miscellaneous juvenile								
Unclassified juvenile								
Total juvenile								
GRAND TOTAL								
Drug cases								
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:								
Postconviction remedy								
Preliminary hearings								
Sentence review only								
Extraordinary writs								
Total other proceedings								

APPENDIX D

STATE POPULATIONS

• • • • • • • • • •

Resident Population, 1990

	Population (in thousands)		
State or territory	**1990 Juvenile**	**1990 Adult**	**1990 Total**
Alabama	1,059	2,982	4,041
Alaska	172	378	550
Arizona	981	2,684	3,665
Arkansas	621	1,730	2,351
California	7,751	22,009	29,760
Colorado	861	2,433	3,294
Connecticut	750	2,538	3,287
Delaware	163	503	666
District of Columbia	117	490	607
Florida	2,866	10,072	12,938
Georgia	1,727	4,751	6,478
Hawaii	280	828	1,108
Idaho	308	698	1,007
Illinois	2,946	8,484	11,431
Indiana	1,456	4,088	5,544
Iowa	719	2,058	2,777
Kansas	662	1,816	2,478
Kentucky	954	2,731	3,685
Louisiana	1,227	2,993	4,220
Maine	309	919	1,228
Maryland	1,162	3,619	4,781
Massachusetts	1,353	4,663	6,016
Michigan	2,459	6,837	9,295
Minnesota	1,167	3,208	4,375
Mississippi	747	1,826	2,573
Missouri	1,315	3,802	5,117
Montana	222	577	799
Nebraska	429	1,149	1,578
Nevada	297	905	1,202
New Hampshire	279	830	1,109
New Jersey	1,799	5,931	7,730
New Mexico	447	1,068	1,515
New York	4,260	13,731	17,990
North Carolina	1,606	5,022	6,629
North Dakota	175	463	639
Ohio	2,800	8,047	10,847
Oklahoma	837	2,309	3,146
Oregon	724	2,118	2,842
Pennsylvania	2,795	9,087	11,882
Puerto Rico	1,163	2,358	3,521
Rhode Island	226	778	1,003
South Carolina	920	2,566	3,487
South Dakota	198	498	696
Tennessee	1,217	3,661	4,877
Texas	4,836	12,151	16,987

(continued on next page)

State Populations (continued)

Resident Population, 1990

State or territory	Population (in thousands) 1990 Juvenile	 1990 Adult	 1990 Total
Utah	627	1,095	1,723
Vermont	143	420	563
Virginia	1,505	4,683	6,187
Washington	1,261	3,605	4,867
West Virginia	444	1,350	1,793
Wisconsin	1,289	3,603	4,892
Wyoming	136	318	454

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Press Release CB91-100, March 11,1991.

Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1984-90

	Population (in thousands)						
State or territory	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Alabama	3,990	4,021	4,053	4,083	4,103	4,119	4,041
Alaska	500	521	533	525	523	527	550
Arizona	3,053	3,187	3,319	3,386	3,489	3,557	3,665
Arkansas	2,349	2,359	2,372	2,388	2,394	2,407	2,351
California	25,622	26,365	26,981	27,663	28,315	29,064	29,760
Colorado	3,178	3,231	3,267	3,296	3,301	3,316	3,294
Connecticut	3,154	3,174	3,189	3,211	3,235	3,239	3,287
Delaware	613	622	633	644	660	672	666
District of Columbia	623	626	625	622	618	604	607
Florida	10,976	11,366	11,675	12,023	12,335	12,671	12,938
Georgia	5,837	5,976	6,104	6,222	6,342	6,436	6,478
Hawaii	1,039	1,054	1,063	1,083	1,099	1,112	1,108
Idaho	1,001	1,005	1,002	998	1,003	1,014	1,007
Illinois	11,511	11,535	11,551	11,582	11,612	11,658	11,431
Indiana	5,498	5,499	5,503	5,531	5,555	5,593	5,544
Iowa	2,910	2,884	2,850	2,834	2,834	2,838	2,777
Kansas	2,438	2,450	2,460	2,476	2,495	2,513	2,478
Kentucky	3,723	3,726	3,729	3,727	3,726	3,727	3,685
Louisiana	4,462	4,481	4,502	4,461	4,407	4,383	4,220
Maine	1,156	1,164	1,173	1,187	1,205	1,222	1,228
Maryland	4,349	4,392	4,463	4,535	4,624	4,694	4,781
Massachusetts	5,798	5,822	5,832	5,855	5,888	5,912	6,016
Michigan	9,075	9,088	9,144	9,200	9,239	9,274	9,295
Minnesota	4,162	4,193	4,214	4,246	4,307	4,352	4,375
Mississippi	2,598	2,613	2,625	2,625	2,620	2,621	2,573
Missouri	5,008	5,029	5,066	5,103	5,142	5,160	5,117
Montana	824	826	819	809	805	805	799
Nebraska	1,606	1,606	1,597	1,594	1,602	1,611	1,578
Nevada	911	936	964	1,007	1,054	1,109	1,202
New Hampshire	977	998	1,027	1,057	1,086	1,106	1,109
New Jersey	7,515	7,562	7,620	7,672	7,720	7,736	7,730
New Mexico	1,424	1,450	1,479	1,500	1,506	1,528	1,515
New York	17,735	17,783	17,772	17,825	17,910	17,950	17,990
North Carolina	6,165	6,255	6,334	6,413	6,490	6,570	6,629
North Dakota	686	685	679	672	667	661	639
Ohio	10,752	10,744	10,753	10,784	10,855	10,908	10,847
Oklahoma	3,298	3,301	3,305	3,272	3,241	3,223	3,146
Oregon	2,674	2,687	2,698	2,724	2,766	2,820	2,842
Pennsylvania	11,901	11,853	11,888	11,936	12,001	12,039	11,882
Puerto Rico	3,267	3,267	3,267	3,274	3,294	3,291	3,521
Rhode Island	962	968	975	986	993	996	1,003
South Carolina	3,300	3,347	3,376	3,425	3,471	3,512	3,487
South Dakota	706	708	708	709	713	716	696
Tennessee	4,717	4,762	4,803	4,855	4,896	4,939	4,877
Texas	15,989	16,370	16,685	16,789	16,840	16,991	16,987
Utah	1,652	1,645	1,665	1,680	1,688	1,707	1,723
Vermont	530	535	541	548	557	566	563
Virginia	5,636	5,706	5,787	5,904	6,016	6,097	6,187
Washington	4,349	4,409	4,463	4,538	4,648	4,760	4,867
West Virginia	1,952	1,936	1,919	1,897	1,876	1,857	1,793
Wisconsin	4,766	4,775	4,785	4,807	4,854	4,867	4,892
Wyoming	511	509	507	490	479	474	454

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Press Release CB91-100, March 11, 1991.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS FROM THE COURT STATISTICS PROJECT

The following publications are available from the National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798:

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports 1976-1979
Each of these four volumes (1976-1979) has available caseload information from all appellate and trial courts. 1980-1984, paperback, $3.00 each volume, plus shipping.

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1980
Available caseload information from all appellate and trial courts are presented in this report. 1984, 496 pages, paperback, $4.50, plus shipping.

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1981
The 1981 Report is out of print. Photocopies are available from the Court Statistics Project.

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1984
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Available caseload information from all appellate and trial courts are presented in this report. 1990, 306 pages, 32 oz., paperback, $6.95, plus shipping.

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1989
Available caseload information from all appellate and trial courts are presented in this report. 1991, 292 pages, 32 oz., paperback, $6.95, plus shipping.

Court Case Management Information Systems Manual
This manual reviews local and statewide case management information requirements and presents sets of model data elements, data collection forms and case management output reports for each level of court. 1983, 342 pages, 29 oz., paperback, $15.00, plus shipping.

The Business of State Trial Courts
Defining courts business as cases filed, serius cases, and contested cases, this monograph tests six myths about courts, their work and decisions. 1983, 158 pages, 14 oz., paperback. Single copies are available free of charge.

State Court Organization 1987
Updates the 1980 reference guide to the organization and practices of all state appellate and trial courts. 1988, 420 pages, 43 oz., paperback, $9.95, plus shipping.

State Court Model Annual Report
Suggested formats to be used in preparing stae court annual reports. Discusses topics to be considered for inclusion in court reports. 1980, 88 pages. Single copies are available through the National Center for State Courts library.

1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting
Contains information on the organizations, jurisdiction, and time standards in the state appellate courts. 1985, 117 pages. Single copies are available for loan through the National Center for State Courts library.

State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989
Contains definitions of terms used to classify an count court caseload. Gives the court statistical usage for each term. Merges the 1980 edition and 1984 *Supplement*, defines new terms. 1989, 90 pages, 11 oz., paperback, $4.50, plus shipping.

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